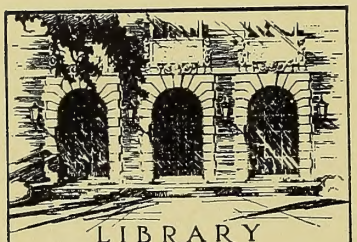

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HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL BUREAU

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HISTORY
OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY
ILLINOIS
1810 -- 1962

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Compiled by

CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL BUREAU

Mt. Vernon, Illinois

1962

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Mt. Vernon, Illinois
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INTRODUCTION

It has been a great pleasure, as well as quite an extensive task, to compile and edit this "History of Jefferson County, Illinois" for you. May we make a few remarks before you start reading it?

First, we should say that we feel that you may want to "browse through" this volume rather than to read straight through it. If you do browse, you will find a complete index in the back of the book in which there are place names and names of persons who have been mentioned. You may find one of your ancestors, a beloved friend, or even yourself in here!

We did not compile this book by ourselves—it is an anthology rather than the work of a single person. One person could not do a book of this nature in his lifetime. He must have help, and let us say right now with great emphasis that we did have help. Many, many persons and organizations were instrumental in the writing of this book. You will find their names with the articles and sketches throughout the book—except that some modest persons who wrote the histories of their churches or organizations did not wish to take the credit to themselves and would not sign their names to their contributions and would not so much as place their return addresses on the envelope in which it was mailed.

You may find that your church or organization is not included. We advised everybody we saw and even advertised in the Mt. Vernon Register-News that histories of churches and organizations would be included free of charge. We waited as long as we could before printing. However, people were becoming anxious to receive their books, and we finally decided to go ahead without them.

You will realize, we are sure, that in an effort of this scope there is chance for typographical error, though we have carefully proofread every page. There is also possibility that we or one of our contributors may have misspelled the name of some person or place which is very important to you. If this has happened, please charge it to human error, as this certainly would never have occurred in any other way.

And now, enjoy yourself!

CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL BUREAU
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

EARLY HISTORY

In the year of 1818, Illinois, the "Prairie State," was admitted to the federal union. Following this in the organization of political subdivisions came the organization of counties, townships, cities and villages.

The County of Jefferson was organized in 1819, a few months after Illinois became a state. The new county which bore the name of the author of the Declaration of Independence was to contain sixteen townships.

The next major step after establishing the boundaries of the county was to decide where the permanent seat of justice was to be. The decision that was to be made was to be permanent. The founding fathers decided that the capital of the newly organized county was to be where the city of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, is now located. The indications are that those who were responsible for the establishment of Jefferson County were far-sighted, quick to act, and were "on the ball," so to speak.

It will be interesting to know that Jefferson County was organized much sooner than many of the other counties in Illinois. Marion County, which borders Jefferson County on the north, was not organized until 1823, five years after Congress had admitted the new state. This fact strongly indicates that the pioneer families of this area were keenly interested in the formation of local government and quickly realized the necessity of converting a virgin community that was accustomed to roving Indians into a civilized society that would provide a haven for the new white settlers.

Mount Vernon has had two names. Founders of the newly established hamlet were desirous of giving their new town a name that in their opinion would sound beautiful, and they first named it "Mount Pleasant." The center of the hamlet was located on the summit of a slope, and it is believed that this is where they conceived the idea of using the word "Mount." The slope mentioned is the location of the Jefferson County Court House.

The name of George Washington has always been popular with the American people, and he is the idol of many. Following the War for Independence, the "Father of His Country" and his home at Mt. Vernon,

the Union occurred December 3, 1818; the County of Jefferson was organized March 26, 1819, a period of 113 days later. The official beginning Of Mt. Vernon took place June 7, 1819, seventy-three days after the organization; it was only 186 days after the state had officially been admitted to the Union until Mt. Vernon was officially born.

The procedure took place in the following manner: After Illinois became the twenty-first state of the federal union and the legislature was in legal functioning order, an Act of the Legislature was passed March 26, 1819, which created Jefferson County. The Act also provided for five Commissioners to select a permanent seat of justice and to designate it as such. These Commissioners were appointed by the Legislature instead of the citizens of the county. The five who were authorized were: Ambrose Maulding, Lewis Barker, Robert Shipley, James Richardson and Richard Graham.

The Act was rather specific in its provisions. It even provided that the commissioners were to meet at the home of William Casey, a local resident of the new community. The house of William Casey, then, was the place where the King City had its official birth. Casey had offered to donate twenty acres of land to be used for the new seat of justice, and this acreage was to be sold in lots for the development of the new community. In the event the owner of the land did not make his proposed donation, the Commissioners were to seek land elsewhere for this purpose, but it was to be in some location that would be convenient for the inhabitants. This new governing body did not have to seek land elsewhere, as Casey gladly made the donation of the twenty-acre tract.

The law set forth that the Commissioners were to meet at Casey's home "on the second Monday of May" to make their important decision of fixing the permanent seat of justice. This historic meeting was held on the designated date, which was May 12, 1819.

In a country where a democracy is the controlling factor, the people have a right to express themselves and have the right to disagree with th eir fellow men. There was some disagreement among those who established the seat of justice in Jefferson County. Isaac Hicks wanted it close to him and offered a spot known as "Post Oak Hill." Another location which others thought suitable was between the homes of

Mrs. Samuel Casey and a Mrs. Dodd. Lewis Barker, who was one of the Commissioners, was the father-in-law of William Casey, and some of the local residents believed that it was through his influence that the site was selected according to the wishes of the donor. There is no verification of this, and therefore there is to be no reflection on the characters of either Barker or Casey.

PIONEER FAMILIES OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

As stated in another section of this volume, Andrew Moore was the first white person to settle in this virgin territory. Six years later Carter Wilkey, a native of Georgia, came to the Illinois country; and shortly after that, Daniel Crenshaw and Robert Cook came to the same locality. All of these located in what is now Moores Prairie Township.

Andrew Moore's cabin had been vacant for a few years, and Crenshaw occupied it. Wilkey was a single man and boarded with the Crenshaw family. Crenshaw began at once to repair the Moore cabin, and Wilkey planted and grew a small crop. Cook settled a short distance from where Jefferson County's first white burial occurred two years later.

According to records, William Crenshaw (this is believed actually to be Daniel Crenshaw) acquired an eighty-acre tract of land from the Federal Government in Section 22 of Moores Prairie on November 15, 1816. Wilkey and Cook had come to Moores Prairie in 1815 as members of a surveying party, but had not established residence until the following year.

Barton Atchison came to Moores Prairie in the autumn of 1816 and purchased the crop that Wilkey raised that year. Atchison settled close to where Cook had settled, which is about one and a half miles from Crenshaw's new home.

On October 22, 1816, several more people arrived in the new settlement. They consisted of Carter Wilkey's mother, Carter's older brother, Maxey Wilkey, and his wife and child. Crenshaw had several cabins, and the newcomers spent the winter in one of these cabins. Mrs. Wilkey was an aunt of Mrs. Crenshaw.

Maxey Wilkey and Barton Atchison were veterans of the War of 1812. Carter Wilkey, who was younger than Maxey, also served in the War of 1812 for a short period; but due to the fact that he was too young for war service, his mother succeeded in getting him discharged from the Army.

Theophilus Cook, a native of South Carolina, moved with his family to Tennessee after the Revolutionary War and lived in that state until the winter of 1816-1817 when he moved with his family to Moores Prairie, Illinois. Cook was married to Elizabeth Caldwell who was a native of Newberry County, South Carolina. He served two enlistments during the War of 1812, and he took part in the famous battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815.

Mrs. John Hicks came to Moores Prairie the same time that Theophilus Cook came. Mrs. Hicks was a sister of Carter Wilkey and had been living in Georgia. Her husband was standing beside Theophilus Cook when he received his death wound during the battle of New Orleans.

Legend has it that Theophilus Cook and his family settled near the former Bell Point School. Official records show that he acquired several tracts of land in Moores Prairie, but the first land of which he became the owner of record was in Section Two, April 20, 1839, this land containing eighty acres. Cook continued to live in this area for the remainder of his life and passed away June 15, 1858. It is interesting to know that Cook was born on George Washington's birthday in the year 1788.

Barton Atchison apparently did not acquire any real estate for about thirteen years after his removal to Moores Prairie. Records show that he purchased the east one half of the southeast quarter of Section 22 on January 26, 1829. This estate borders the farm on which Andrew Moore erected his cabin.

In the spring of 1818 six families made the journey from Tennessee to Moores Prairie. They consisted of the families of William Maxey, James E. Davis, James Johnson, Nathanial Parker, John Wilkerson and Henry Burchett Maxey. The last named was the father of the first white child buried in Jefferson County and also built the first dwelling house in Mt. Vernon. These people came as a colony, which gave them more protection against Indians and other dangers. They loaded their

wagons and left from William Maxey's home, which was about three miles from Gallitin, Tennessee, on April 20, 1818, and arrived in Moores Prairie on May 9, 1818. This colony of people had the sad experience of burying William Perry Maxey, the ten month old son of Burchette Maxey, two days after they arrived in their new location. The burial of this little child was the burial of Jefferson County's first white person.

Nathaniel Parker did not like the county and moved to Allen County, Kentucky; but at a later date he moved back to Jefferson County where he spent the remainder of his life.

The Caseys who came to Jefferson County prior to 1820 made their new homes not far from where the King City is located. Isaac Casey and two of his sons, William and Thomas, came in the autumn of 1816 and did some exploring in this vicinity, but they returned to Cave-in-Rock where they lived out the winter. Isaac and some of his family came in the spring of 1817 to make this area their permanent home. Zadok Casey and his family also came in the spring of 1817 and remained in the Mt. Vernon area until his death. Abraham P. Casey, an older brother of Zadok, came to Jefferson County in the spring of 1818. His son, Clark Casey, came with him and settled west of Mt. Vernon on what was known as "Mulberry Hill."

Lewis Johnson, who is mentioned in the history of the Johnson family, came to and settled in Jefferson County in 1819.

There were other people who came to Jefferson County and then moved on to other areas and perhaps others who stayed who have not yet been mentioned, and who will be mentioned later in this book, but the ones mentioned above are the families that are most often credited with being the families that settled in the new county during its formative years and made this their permanent home.

MT. VERNON 1862 === MT. VERNON 1962

One century ago, Mt. Vernon, Illinois, along with the rest of the nation, was engaged in one of the world's greatest civil wars. Local customs, social life and many other things were considerably different then, in comparison to what they are a century later. A large number of young men from Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County were

wearing military uniforms and were away from home serving in the armed forces. As is the case in all military conflicts, some of those men did not return to their home community.

"Time changes things," and inconceivable changes have been made in the King City ant its surrounding area in the last one hundred years. We shall attempt to show some of the revolutionary changes that have occurred in this area during that period of time.

The year of 1862 was the second year of the Civil War, and both the North and the South were beginning to see that this was to be a long and bitter struggle.

A century ago the "men in blue" from Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County were loading muskets by hand. That was a slow process, and a soldier could only get one or two shots at the Confederate troops, depending on whether he had a single or a double-barreled rifle. Cannons that were used by the artillery were also loaded and fired by hand; this required several minutes time. Transportation of these heavy weapons across the fields had to be done with horses and mules. As medical science had not advanced, sanitation and hygiene were almost unknown in the armed forces.

Aviation was of course unknown, and wireless telegraphy had not come into general use; radio was unknown and so was the telephone. Therefore, communications were inadequate between the divisions of the troops. However, poisonous gases and "blockbuster" bombs had not come into existence, neither had germ warfare nor torpedoes as we now know them. Beyond any doubt, numbers of Jefferson County men who were wounded or taken with disease died as a result of the lack of proper care and medication.

The muzzle-loading rifle and cannon have long since been replaced with fast-loading cartridges and shells that are prepared at the munitions plant and can be fired with greater effectiveness. The grandsons and great grandsons of Civil War veterans are equipped with jet planes, automatic rifles, sub-machine guns, regular machine guns, hand grenades, automatic pistols, intercontinental guided missiles, satellites, and other modern weapons that were unknown a hundred years ago.

In mentally turning back the pages of time one century, we find the farmers of Jefferson County plowing, cultivating and harvesting fine crops with horses and mules. If the farmer owned a hundred acres of land he was considered a large farmer and was considered to be a prosperous man.

The roads that the farmer had to travel from his home to his shopping center were made of dirt, often ungraded. During the winter months the roads were either frozen and rough or were knee deep in mud. The summer season saw the dust from the country roads and the town streets several inches deep. When the family drove to church on Sunday, they were sure to be covered with dust before they arrived at the "meetin'" house, or to become stuck in the mud if it happened to have rained in the last day or two. Most of the bridges were built of wood and could not carry much weight, and during rainy seasons when there would be a "gulley washer", many bridges would be completely washed away.

In 1862 such chores as husking corn, harvesting hay, digging potatoes, preparing fire wood for the family heating stove and the kitchen range, harvesting and threshing grain, and many other jobs were for the most part done by hand. Many farmers of Jefferson County drove hogs, cattle and geese on foot to St. Louis to market them. This was a long and arduous journey which required from a week to ten days to make the round trip.

A century ago, grandmother or the "hired girl" or both of them did the family washing on the wash board; that was a back breaking job. If the cistern was low and the water had to be conserved for drinking purposes, many times she had to carry water from the creek. The family ironing had to be done with hand irons heated on the range. This meant that very few persons of that day even dreamed of a complete change of clothing every day--and how can we blame them?

The canning and packing of fruits and vegetables for the family for the following year was done at the home, and this required keeping the kitchen range fired all day in the hottest of weather. Peeling and slicing of fruits to be cooked and canned was performed with the paring knife. Apple butter was cooked in the autumn season in a large cast iron or copper kettle in the back yard, and it had to

be stirred constantly until finished, a process which took all day and often went on far into the night. Most housewives demanded that a number of silver dollars be put into the kettle as an aid to preventing the apple butter from sticking to the bottom of the kettle. Just why no other coin would do we cannot explain, except that the dollars were larger and more easily found when the job was finally done. The handles of the paddle for stirring the apple butter were six to eight feet long -- otherwise the heat of the fire would have cooked grandmother and the children as well as the apple butter.

The school where the youngsters got their "readin', writin' and 'rithmetic" was almost always a one-room building. For a number of years the entire school term consisted of a period of five months of learning. At an earlier period, the school term was possibly three or four months of each calendar year. The children walked to school, and the distance was from a few hundred feet to three or four miles, depending on how far the family lived from the school.

During the winter months, many times the pupils had to wade snow knee deep during the school season. In the spring, farm work began before the school term ended, and boys of many families would be required to quit school and assist in putting out the crop. In most communities high school was unknown and colleges were few and often far away.

Sidney Hirons, former County Superintendent of Schools and present principal of the Waltonville High School, states that during the Civil War Mt. Vernon's only school closed down and did not reopen until after the war was over.

Social life in Jefferson County in the early 1860's among the rural people was devoted to visiting, playing checkers, "taffy pullings," corn husking bees, play parties at homes (where they played "snap" and similar games so that the boys not yet in military service could kiss the pretty maidens), pie suppers at local schools, sitting around the fireplace listening to grandfather tell some hunting story and in "comparing notes" as to the latest word from the war.

Attending worship services and strict adherence to the religious faith of their choice was a must with most farm families. Most of the churches were of the protestant faith in Jefferson County,

and there was one in walking distance of nearly every home. Annual revival meetings were a common practice in this area, and in some groups the "protracted meeting" was held in a brush arbor it it was held during the summer season.

As wild game was plentiful in that day, much of their sports life was devoted to hunting and fish ing right in Jefferson County, usually within walking distance of the home place. It was considered great sport to see who could bag the most game in one day and to tell the entire community about one's wonderful skill as a marksman. (Have we changed much in a hundred years?)

Sitting around country stores and discussing politics was very much enjoyed by the local political prophets. Some arguments concerning politics climaxed in ill feelings, in some instances ending in a "free for all" fight. More than one fight started over arguments as to how President Lincoln and his generals ought to conduct the war, and we know of at least one killing in Jefferson County between a Confederate sympathizer and a Union soldier on leave.

Today, after another century has gone into history, the farmers of Jefferson County have discontinued the use of horse-drawn vehicles and have turned to the motor. The plowing, cultivating and harvesting of crops is done with modern tractors. The average farmer feels that he needs several hundred acres of land to carry on profitable operations. There are many farms that do not have any horses or mules at all. Most roads that the farmers of today travel over are "all weather." The buggies and surreys are no longer used, and passenger cars and trucks have come to replace them. Farm people today can travel any place they desire every day of the year. The dust from country roads during summer has been almost eliminated due to the surfacing of rural roads.

The bridges that were so commonly built of wood during grandfather's day have been largely replaced with bridges built of concrete and steel. These structures will carry a much heavier load and the danger of their breaking down has been almost eliminated. As these bridges are so much stronger, the possibility of their being washed away during rainy seasons is also remote.

Harvesting legume crops in 1962 is performed by fast-moving tractors that furnish power for large mowing machines, enabling the

descendents of the farmers of 1862 to harvest a much larger quantity in the same period of time. Picking corn is done by mechanical corn pickers that remove the back breaking and time consuming job of picking by hand. Few farmers of today use wood for fuel. Most of them heat their homes and cook their meals with coal, gas, oil or electricity.

Livestock are now carried to the central market by motor trucks that make the round trip in one day. The family washing of today is performed with electric washers that take the drudgery out of performing the family laundry, and in many homes the ironing is done with an electric ironer. Drawing water with buckets is a thing of the past and the hand-operated water pump has almost vanished from the scene. The farm home of 1962 is supplied with modern water systems that pump the water to the house, and it is usually heated automatically with electric heaters. A large portion of home canning of fruits and vegetables has been discontinued, as many farmers purchase from groceries the products that have been packed in canning factories.

The rural schools and method of transportation of students have drastically changed since 1862. The one-room school is a thing of the past, as the schools have consolidated, and each school building has several departments. The curriculum has been enlarged, and the school year has been extended. The students are transported to and from school by busses. Modern high schools are within reach of every family, and our people are much better educated than they were a century ago.

Social life now in the rural areas consists of watching television, attending movies, visiting neighbors (though not as much as in grandfather's day), taking trips to distant cities, and in most ways the rural citizen spends his leisure time in exactly the same way as his "city cousin."

Attending worship services in our rural churches is still carried on faithfully, though many of the older church buildings have been replaced with new buildings that are equipped with modern furniture and appliances. Annual revival meetings are still held in many rural churches.

Wild game of certain kins is still plentiful in rural areas of Jefferson County and hunting is still a great sport; but the variety and quantity of game is not as plentiful as a century ago; therefore, the men have changed their methods of hunting considerably.

In 1862, Mt. Vernon was still a village. In another decade it would become a city. The War between the states was gaining momentum, and a number of Mt. Vernon's young men had already experienced life on a battlefield. The people back home were wondering how soon this conflict would come to an end, and "Johnny" would come home and tell of his experience as a "boy in blue."

In rolling back the pages of time, we find that life in many ways was a "far cry" in the King City in comparison to what it is a century later. In 1862 Mt. Vernon was much smaller in area as well as in population. With a modern vehicle one could drive around the village in a matter of minutes, providing he did not get his buggy stuck in the mud.

One century ago the streets were made of dirt. The sidewalks were made of wood, some of this sawed and some hewn by hand. Local industries such as saw mills, flouring mills and small factories were powered by steam. Gasoline, deisel and electric power were unknown. The community had but few industries, and each enterprise had small production of its manufactured products. When each plant was operating at peak capacity it could use but few employees.

Railway transportation and the use of the "iron horse" in Mt. Vernon was unknown. This was to come a decade later. The nearest railroad was the Illinois Central that ran through Centralia, Ashley and DuQuoin. Connection to the nearest railway station was by the stage coach line that operated between Mt. Vernon and Ashley. The stage coaches did a thriving business during this period.

The predecessor of the garage was the livery stable. The livery stables rendered services to the public in more ways than one. When the traveler was stopping at Mt. Vernon for the night, the livery stable was the place that furnished housing for his horse or team, whichever he was driving. An ample supply of feed was always available for the horses that were to be guests of the proprietor. On many occasions when traveling men came on the stage coach from Ashley and needed to go to villages that were a few miles distant, they would hire a team and buggy to take them to their destinations and return. This was the service of the livery stable.

In the merchandising field, almost all items were sold at the general store. The local merchant was expect to sell everything from "safety pins to caskets." Practically all the foods that he sold were packed in bulk. Many items such as sugar, flour, vinegar and salt pork were packed in wooden barrels. Each item that was sold by the pound had to be weighed when the purchase was made. As there was no refrigeration, perishable merchandise could not be stocked in their inventories. Bookkeeping had to be done by pen or pencil, as IBM machines were still unknown.

In 1862 Mt. Vernon's Fire Department consisted of a group of men that would get some buckets quickly and run to the fire and draw the water out of the well that was located closest to the burning building. This latter group was sometimes referred to as the "bucket brigade." Arrangements were made with some local factories that had steam whistles to blow the whistle a certain number of times when there was a fire in the vicinity. Some one had to run to the plant and tell them of the fire, as there were no telephones. When the whistle would sound the signal that was known as the "fire signal" it would cause considerable excitement. People would start running to the fire from all directions with two purposes in mind: one was to assist in extinguishing the fire, and the other was to satisfy their curiosity. It was an unwritten law that if a fire started in some section of town at any hour of the day or any time during the night, that every one was expected to get to the scene as quickly as possible and assist the family that was in distress.

Barber shops and general stores with the "cracker barrel" were places where many discussions took place. Many candidates who were aspirants for local office were either elected or defeated if the "cracker barrel" philosophers could accurately predict the outcome of the forthcoming election. At any rate, this provided much entertainment for the political scientist.

As the year of 1862 was the second year of the war between the states, the conflict was now being fought desperately by both Union and Confederate forces. Beyond any doubt the one thing that was uppermost in the minds of Mt. Vernon's residents was the struggle that was going on between the North and the South. As a number of

the boys from the King City were wearing the uniform of blue, the folks back home watched the mail daily to see if there was a letter from husband or son or sweetheart who was away in the armed forces. Like all wars, there was naturally a nervous tension among the home people. When one person received a letter from a soldier, they went as soon as possible to spread the news to the neighbors and other relatives. If a soldier or sailor was discharged and returned home prior to the end of the war, he was not only welcomed as a hero, but he was a center of attraction in the community.

When official news reached the community that General Lee had surrendered the Confederate forces, the "folks back home" were in the mood of staging a celebration, now that Johnny would be marching home soon. Within a few days after the historic surrender at Appamattox, some more breath-taking news reached the village of Mt. Vernon. This latest news brought grief instead of rejoicing. It was the announcement that President Lincoln had been slain at the hands of an assassin. The name of John Wilkes Booth quickly became an unpopular one with King City residents.

FIRST WHITE BURIAL—Pages 5, 6 and M-21

FIRST WHITE FAMILY STORY ON PAGE M-17—LOG CABIN BUILT 1810 WAS RAZED LONG BEFORE PRESENT HOUSE WAS BUILT.

IVAN H. COX, Right, Mayor of Mt. Vernon, and CARL S. BRENNAN, DIRECTOR of CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL BUREAU, greets Engine "GENERAL" on its arrival in Mt. Vernon.

APPELLATE COURT HOUSE ORIGINALLY SUPREME COURT BUILDING.

See Page C-18.

FIRST HOME SITE OF ZADOK CASEY, PIONEER MINISTER AND POLITICAL LEADER. FIRST HOUSE WAS LOG STRUCTURE. SEE PAGES H-33, H-34, M-1, M-23, M-33, M-34, P-10, S-5, W-3, W-11, W-17, W-22.

FARM FIRST OWNED BY EDWARD MAXEY. ORIGINAL BUILDING WAS LOG HOUSE. FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF MT. VERNON WAS ORGANIZED IN MAXEY'S HOME 33 DAYS BEFORE ILLINOIS BECAME A STATE. SEE PAGES B-14, M-1, M-24, N-7, W-1, W-23.

MT. OLIVE CHURCH—ONLY LOG CHURCH STILL IN USE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY.

SEE PAGE M-29.

HARRY L. BATES * * RECOLLECTIONS OF THE MT. VERNON CAR MANUFACTURING COMPANY

(EDITORIAL NOTE: Mr. Bates worked in the office of the Car Company for fifty-five years.)

For three quarters of a century or more, the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, has been an industrial community. During that period the industries of the locality have played a major role in the economic welfare of the community. Since 1875 many millions of dollars have been distributed in the city and surrounding area through the pay rolls of these industries.

The local manufacturing plant known as "Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Company" which operated here for sixty-four years contributed materially in the economic growth of the King City. Other industries such as railroads, manufacturers of textiles, footwear, clothing, furnaces, etc., provided livelihood for numerous families for many years, but the "Car Shops," as they were commonly known, provided the largest pay roll of any industrial concern that this community has ever had.

This industry had its beginning ten years prior to the turn of the century. The birth of Mt. Vernon's mammoth industry came about in this manner: the late David O. Settlemire, whose home was in Litchfield, Illinois, was engaged in freight car building in that city, and he decided to move his plant to Mt. Vernon. It is not really known just why he decided to make this move (although some oral reports have been given), but he decided to close the plant at Lichfield and build a new plant at Mt. Vernon. The plant at Mt. Vernon was to have similarity of the Litchfield factory. The plant, including the various shops, was to be equipped to build freight cars of all kinds for the railroads.

The new place of business was ready for operation in April, 1890. Manufacturing operations began on a small scale, employing about four hundred men when the new plant began operating. The late W. C. Arthurs, who later became president of the company, was a son-in-law of Settlemire and was living in Litchfield at the time the plant was moved to Mt. Vernon. Mr. Arthurs was the first secretary and

treasurer of the firm. Mr. and Mrs. Arthurs moved to the King City, but the founder continued to live at Litchfield until the time of his death.

The initial production of freight cars produced in the new plant was from eleven to twelve cars daily. As most of the work was done by hand, due to the fact that automation was virtually unknown, this was a fairly large day's work for the four hundred men who were employed. The first products to roll out the doors of this plant were built of wood except the parts of the car that required steel or cast iron. This plant was smaller than other plants in the country that built a competitive product, and therefore could not produce the same quantity in daily production, but the quality of their cars was considered to be of the best in the nation.

In later years Mt. Vernon's major industry built cars for railroads from one coast tine to the other, but in the early days of its existence it is believed that most of their products were for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. This was probably due to the fact that the L & N was (and still is) one of the larger railroads of the country and their Evansville-St. Louis line operated through Mt. Vernon. As the Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Company could build quality freight cars and the L & N had connections to their plant, it was only natural that they would get a large amount of the L & N business.

In due time the local enterprise became known to railroads across the country for erecting durable freight cars, and this created a new demand for cars from many railway systems. As the business of the local company began to grow, there was the need for plant expansion. This was followed by the erection of additional shops and installation of new plant equipment. After the plant had been operating for several years and the demand grew for steel to be used to replace wood in freight car construction, the management saw the necessity for the erection of a large steel plant. This building was to be used to process and assemble nearly all of the steel that was to go in a car. The building that was to be known as the "Steel Erect Department" was built on the south side of the yards. It was built in

either 1910 or 1912. The first steel car was erected in this building in 1912.

The Steel Department was equipped with two tracks that assembled the chassis and frame part of the car. As the volume of business grew, the Steel Department, along with other departments, added more equipment to keep pace with production. It is reported that maximum daily production never exceeded fifty completed freight cars.

During World War One this plant received a large volume of orders for "rolling stock." It is not known how many cars were built in this plant during that period, but peak production was reached in employment. The company employed 2,300 men while this conflict was going on "to end all wars." Some of the cars that were built in the Mt. Vernon shops during the war period were shipped to foreign countries.

Freight car building was the primary business of this industrial enterprise, but after the company had been operating a number of years, they were called upon to engage in the manufacture of other products. As automation was finding its way into coal mines as well as other fields, a number of coal companies that were operating mines in Southern Illinois began the use of coal loading machines in their mines. The local plant was called upon to build a considerable amount of these machines to be used in pit mines. It is not known how many of these machines were built in Mt. Vernon nor how many mines used them.

This plant was locally owned and operated for more than half a century, until it was sold to H. K. Porter and Co. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The eastern firm operated this industry for a few years, then sold the plant to another firm; more about this will be mentioned later.

As pointed out above, this local enterprise played a very prominent role in the economic development and welfare of Mt. Vernon for over sixty years. Proof of this is found in the fact that the pay roll averaged a hundred thousand dollars every two weeks for a long period of time. In later years the employees were paid weekly. On the basis of the above figure, $2,600,000 were distributed in the

Mt. Vernon area in a calendar year. For many years the employees were paid with cash, and that was the way W. C. Arthurs wanted it to be. On one occasion Dee Settlemire, who was one of the officials of the company wanted to issue checks on payday instead of paying with cash. Settlemire informed the personnel of the office that they would pay by check and he did not care what Arthurs thought about it. To the surprise of the plant personnel, the workers all received checks instead of cash. From this time on, the company paid their employees with checks, and thus ended the distribution of cash on payday. Dee Settlemire was a nephew of Mr. Arthurs by marriage.

When the president of the company, David O. Settlemire, passed away at his home in Litchfield, Illinois, a considerable number of people from Mt. Vernon decided to attend the funeral. As paved roads and automobiles were unknown, the only means of long distance rapid transportation was by rail; the C & E I Railroad ran an excursion train from Mt. Vernon to Litchfield via Shelbyville. The train traveled over the New York Central tracks from Shelbyville to its destination. The Shelbyville area had been flooded as a result of recent rains, and the water was almost level with the track. The flooded area, which had the appearance of a lake on both sides of the track, caused so much fear among the passengers that they sang "Nearer My God to Thee" while the train was passing through the flooded region. The founder's death occurred near the turn of the century.

Like other progressive firms, this industry expanded its business as rapidly as possible, and in a few years was doing business with railroads across the nation. So well were their products received that the local plant received orders from outside the continental United States. This company built cars for the Canadian National Railroad, for the Grand Trunk Line, and they also built some cars for a railway company in Mexico.

Even when safety precautions are practiced to the fullest extent, industrial firms always have casualties. During the sixty-four year period that this plant operated there were many injuries, some serious, many of a minor nature, and a few of the injuries resulted in death. On one occasion three men were killed in one day. This is said to be the largest number of death casualties in one day that the plant ever experienced.

The "Car Shops" were established and began operations a few years prior to the coming of the C & E I Railroad through Mt. Vernon. When the first train ran over this new line, it was only natural that all of the local residents wanted to see this first train on this new railroad. The engineer on this initial train told young Harry Bates to get him some water and he would give this young man a ride on the first train. Bates got the water for the engineer and he is still waiting for that ride. (EDITORIAL NOTE: It will never materialize, we all know, as the C & E I has been allowed to discontinue passenger service, and other railroad companies are "dickering" to buy the business.)

The coming of the twentieth century was also the coming of more railway transportation to Mt. Vernon. The C & E I began operating near 1895, and the Wabash, Chester and Western Railway (W C & W) was constructed about the same time. The W C & W was a short line that was built from Chester, Illinois, to Mt. Vernon. It was said that it was largely financed with capital from the Cole Milling Company at Chester. The W C & W is now owned by the Missouri Pacific Company.

The coming of the two rail lines mentioned above provided a new outlook for Mt. Vernon's largest manufacturer. It gave them a potential of two more railroads with which to do business and provided more rail connections to ship their products to their respective destinations.

Another railroad was built that opened up more possibilities for the King City and the Car Company. This was known as the Jefferson and Southeastern Railroad Company. This new line was built from Beardstown, Illinois, to Drivers, Illinois. Drivers was formerly a small station on the L & N Railroad between Mt. Vernon and Ashley. When the trains left Beardstown they traveled southeastward through Centralia, Boyd, Cravat, Walnut Hill, Drivers, and on to Mt. Vernon. From Drivers to Mt. Vernon the trains operated over the L & N tracks. The Jefferson and Southeastern Railroad has not operated for many years.

As the railway systems mentioned all had connections with the King City, this is probably one of the reasons why the car building industry flourished so rapidly in the early years of its existence in Mt. Vernon.

A long-to-be-remembered incident happened aboard an excursion train of the Jefferson and Southeastern Railroad during the exciting presidential campaign of William McKinley and William J. Bryan in 1896. A political rally was to be held in behalf of McKinley at Jacksonville, Illinois. All passengers going from Mt. Vernon got round trip fare for fifty cents each. A special cannon had been built at the Car Shops to be used in the celebration. The pattern of this ceremonial weapon was built by the late Sylvester Foster, the last Civil War veteran who lived in Mt. Vernon. This was a mixed train, having both freight and passenger cars on this trip. The cannon was mounted on a flat car with plenty of powder, and was to be used to "Whoop it up" for McKinley.

A number of the employees of the local car building plant had formerly lived at Litchfield and were well acquainted in that area. The mayor of Litchfield, when he heard of the excursion and the cannon, issued orders for "that cannon" not to be fired in the city limits of that town. Joe Dollar, who was aboard the train and a former resident of Litchfield, knew where the mayor lived. The home of the "chief citizen" was a short distance from where the train passed. The boys on the flat car had the cannon loaded with a large quantity of powder, and as the train went by the mayor's home they fired the special-made gun. The noise that was made from firing this shot shook the town. The mayor made no effort to capture the ones who disturbed the peace, as the train did not stop at Litchfield.

Prior to the time that radio came into practical use, band concerts were a popular means of entertainment in many communities. For a number of years the Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Co. sponsored a band that presented regular concerts in the local community. This band was well received by the local residents and was considered one of the best in the country. The band also helped to maintain the morale of the personnel of the plant. The band could be relied upon for parades, concerts, rallies and for many other occasions. It was called the "Carco Band."

The management of the Car Company held the theory that to keep good morale among their employees would pay substantial dividends.

One way to do this was to provide some sport that would be popular with the plant personnel as well as the local citizenry. The company sponsored a baseball team for a number of years that was called the "Car Builders." This team played against many other teams in Southern Illinois and was rated as one of the better teams outside of the major leagues. Ray Blades, who in later years played with the St. Louis Cardinals when they won the world's championship, played with the Car Builders prior to the time that he joined the St. Louis team. It is probable that the playing that Blades did with the Car Builders helped to qualify him for a place in the National League.

As mentioned elsewhere, this industry held the reputation for building quality freight cars. If a former employee went elsewhere to seek employment at some freight car building plant, his strongest recommendation would be a letter from the Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Company.

Many people never knew that this plant built a freight car equipped with roller bearings. This car was completed and ready to be released as "rolling stock," but it was decided by company officials that it would not be a success. The result was that it never left the yards.

As the company had a fairly large forge department, they were called upon to furnish forgings for a number of rail lines in different parts of the country. At one time this company built the forgings for four hundred cars for the L & N Railway. The forgings were shipped to Louisville, Kentucky, and assembled in the L & N shops there.

After the plant had been in operation for a number of years, they realized the need for a large foundry. A building was erected and equipment installed to produce castings in large volume. In addition to making castings for their own plant, they did custom work for other customers. At one time this plant made all castings for the Southern Railroad Company. The Southern has thousands of miles of track.

Cast iron wheels were at first used on "rolling stock" as the use of steel wheels was for years unknown. As various railway officials learned that the Mt. Vernon shops could and did build a

product that was dependable, the Mt. Vernon plant was called upon to manufacture car wheels for the L & N, C & E I and Missouri Pacific systems.

As this was the steam era and all trains were pulled by steam locomotives, the plant built a large quantity of cast iron smoke stacks and brake shoes for the Southern Railway System. Most of these were assembled in the Southern shops. When the customer was in need of some of the products quickly, the materials would be taken to the depot and put on a passenger train in order to reach their destination more quickly.

The Mt. Vernon car shops were equipped to build almost every kind of freight car ever known. As all long distance shipping had to be done by rail, the "iron horse" was called upon to transport livestock from the farms to the terminal markets. This company got its share of the manufacture of cars designed for shipping livestock.

In those days circuses had to use railroads to move their equipment. This factory built a number of circus cars, some of these cars being seventy feet in length. A special type of freight car was designed for shipping elephants, and the Mt. Vernon plant built a number of cars for this purpose.

In the early 1930's the Car Company saw the necessity of expanding their office space, and a new and beautiful office building was erected near the plant on Shawnee Street. This building was large enough to house all of the company's office equipment. The office building was later sold to an association that converted it into Jefferson Memorial Hospital.

The Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Company, in addition to providing the community with an adequate pay roll during its career, poured large sums of revenue into local taxing bodies that was of material assistance to Mt. Vernon schools as well as other sources.

During World War Two, Mt. Vernon's largest industrial plant was called upon to play her role in the prosecution of this conflict. In addition to building "rolling stock" for the American railway systems, they were given large orders for bombs to be used in keeping the Nazi legions on the east side of the Atlantic. It is not known how many bombs this plant built for the federal government, but the number is substantial.

In 1928 the Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Company purchased the J. P. Devine Company that was located in Buffalo, New York, and moved it to Mt. Vernon. This plant could be used to build equipment that the Car Company needed for its operations and also could provide additional employment for many more men. At one time this company negotiated with the Pullman Car Company, but for some reason they did not get any contracts.

The H. K. Porter Company operated the Car Shops for only a few years, then sold the property to Pressed Steel, Inc. This firm operated the plant until the year of 1954, when it was permanently closed. The gates of Mt. Vernon's mammoth industry have been closed to future generations, but the memory of this enterprise that during its period of existence poured many millions of dollars into the community and thus assisted materially in the economic, social and cultural growth of the area will long be remembered. There is not an adult among the present generation who grew up in Mt. Vernon but who can relate many outstanding and interesting episodes which occurred at this giant plant.

Today the car shop buildings are being torn down for salvage and we shall have to wait a while to know what will be done with the many acres of valuable land. It hardly seems possible that any one industry will ever again have the influence or the impact on the Mt. Vernon area that was enjoyed by the Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Company.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MT. VERNON

The articles of association organizing the First National Bank of Mount Vernon were adopted by the stockholders on November 14, 1933. The bank opened for business on December 13, 1933, in its present quarters at 101 South Tenth Street.

The following board of directors were named: J. E. Davidson, C. J. DeWitt, Louis L. Emmerson, J. H. Gilbert, R. O. Kaufman, John Rackaway, Carl Schweinfurth, Lester E. Starr, H. B. P. Ward, Fred P. Watson, R. K. Weber and Guy A. Wood. The bank became a member of the

American Bankers Association at its start and is today a member in good standing.

The first officers elected were R. O. Kaufman, president; John H. Rackaway, vice president; Marlin Rich, cashier, and J. C. Jarrell, assistant cashier. The capital stock was $100,000 and was divided into shares of $20.00 each. The total resources on December 31, 1933 were $789,546.24.

It is interesting to note that Louis L. Emmerson, named above as one of the original directors, served three terms from 1916 to 1928 as Secretary of State of Illinois and then served as Governor of Illinois from 1928 to 1932. Mr. Emmerson was a great asset to his country, state and city, and served faithfully as a director of this bank until his death on February 4, 1941.

On December 31, 1939, after six years of progress, the total resources of the bank were in excess of two million dollars. Both checking and savings accounts had grown considerably, and the bank was serving the community in a more general way as its growth indicated.

In the years it has served Mt. Vernon and the surrounding area the bank has had four presidents: R. O. Kaufman, mentioned above, served until his death on May 2, 1949. Charles Croup served until August, 1957. Lester Starr succeeded him and served until April, 1958. Edward Curtis was elected on April 1, 1958, and is now serving as the bank's president.

Cashiers of the bank over the years have been: Marlin Rich from its beginning to August, 1943; H. C. Ransburgh to January, 1946; Charles Croup to May, 1949; Lacey Payne to January, 1961; C. Wayne Highsmith was then appointed and is presently serving as cashier.

During the years of World War Two, the bank cooperated fully with the United States Government and the Treasury Department in their efforts in the sale of war bonds of all kinds and also in the purchase of short term government securities. Fourteen of the bank's employees saw service during World War Two.

As early as 1954, a building committee was appointed to investigate improving the bank building and lobby. After many months of planning, it eventually resulted in the purchasing of land west of

the bank building and the building of three beautiful, modern and convenient drive-in windows. Below these windows is a large basement area having the present bookkeeping department, proof department and supply room. The new facilities were opened to the public in June of 1958. At that time also, practically full-scale automation of equipment was put into operation with three Burroughs sensi-tronic bookkeeping machines, Burroughs proof machine and the account numbering system being installed. The lobby also at that time was modernized.

In May of 1959, both state and federal authorities granted full trust powers to the bank, another important step in fulfilling customers' needs. Boyce Huson was appointed Trust Officer and Norman Murphy as Assistant Trust Officer. The Trust Department from its inception has grown and continued to grow at a rapid pace and has proven to be a valuable asset to the bank and its customers.

The history of the bank is much the same as reading the recent history of Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County, as most of the officers and directors have been active community leaders who are greatly interested in the growth of the community. Each year for several years past officers have been sent to schools, including: School of Banking at Madison, Wisconsin; National Trust School of Northwestern University; School of Banking of the South, Louisiana State University; Illinois Banker's School for Development of Junior Executives; Southern Illinois University; F. P. R. A. School, Northwestern University, as well as many courses offered by the American Institute of Banking. The advance training of these officers puts the bank in a favorable position to serve the public and serve it well.

The present directors of the bank are: C. E. Brehm, Edward E. Curtis, John A. Davidson, Charles J. DeWitt, William A. Gamber, John A. Kirk, Jack Mitchell, Harold A. Myers, J. Edwin Rackaway, Carl Schweinfurth, Charles S. Ward, and Harold G. Watson. Two of these mentioned, Carl Schweinfurth and Charles J. DeWitt, are members of the original board of directors.

The present officers are: Edward Curtis, president; Boyce Huson, executive vice president and trust officer; Edsel Rightnowar, vice president and assistant trust officer; Lacey Payne, vice president; Luther Becherer, assistant vice president; C. Wayne Highsmith, cashier

and assistant trust officer; Mabel Ewing and Robert Melcher, assistant cashiers.

In 1933, eight employees were needed to serve the needs of the bank and its customers. Today, the number has grown to thirty-four. The following illustration, setting forth the total assets of the bank for the years indicated, is proof of the growth of the First National Bank over the years: 1933, $789,546.24; 1938, $2,227,574.07; 1943, $5,294,486.78; 1948, $8,878,514.02; 1953, $11,632,415.70; 1958, $14,480,033.96; 1961, $16,211,880.47.

—Robert A. Melcher,
Assistant Cashier

BLOCK SCHOOL MEMORIES

(Taken from an article written in the Mt. Vernon Register-News by Addison Hapeman. Block School was destroyed in the tornado of December, 1957.)

Another of the things that have vanished into the limbo of the past are the "literaries" that were held one night each week of school season at the old Block School. These were not "play parties;" these meetings were "eddicational."

An average of fifty or sixty people gathered at the school house each meeting night, coming in wagons or buggies or on foot or horseback. By starting time the yard was well filled with assorted vehicles, with the teams unhitched and one horse tied to a wheel on each side.

First on the evening's program were songs by the school children, solo and in groups. These were the old familiar school song-book airs, and what they lacked in harmony they made up in variation. After all the singers had been given a chance, the recitations began.

These "pieces" varied in length with the age and daring of the young person doing the reciting. Some went in for such works as "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address," or some of the classics; others stuck to something they could more nearly handle. One man still remembers the verse he recited nearly eighty years ago. Six years old at the

time, he marched up the aisle, squared away before the audience, and declaimed:

"If older boys can make a speech,
We little boys can too.
Although we may not say so much,
Yet we've a word for you.
This world is large and full of room,
There is a place for all,
The rich, the poor, the wise, the good,
The large as well as small."

As soon as he had finished he ran back down the aisle and buried his face in the lap of his mother, who patted him on the head and gazed proudly around to receive the plaudits of her neighbors.

After the last faltering recitation was finished there was a sort of musical interlude, perhaps to soothe shattered nerves. Usually the orchestra consisted of a violin, guitar, banjo, tambourine and rattle-bones. "Dutch" Pigg was the tambourine virtuoso, shaking the instrument in a knee to hip, around the shoulder and over the head routine that would have aroused the envy of the most expert gypsy. Pigg was also expert on the "bones," being "so hot he didn't dare play long at a time or he'd set the place on fire."

These rattle-bones (actually, in this case, four short lengths of thin wood) furnished a sharp and syncopated rhythm as a background for such tunes as "Little Fisher Maiden," "Red Wing," "Pop Goes the Weasel," "Dixie" and other Civil War songs, and any others that most of the players could fill in with most of the tune.

Following this musical period, there was usually a debate, the leaders "choosing up" six or seven men to a side. The debated subjects were varied and covered everything from "What influenced the growth of the nation most: the plow or the printing press?" thru "What had the most rights: Indian or white man?" to a momentous discussion as to "Which habit cost the most: coffee or tobacco?"

The coffee debate cost one man an all-time high in fines for getting out of order. The group had a rigid set of rules for behaviour during these sessions, and any infraction of the rules brought a fine of ten cents. During the coffee-tobacco discussion one man was rather carried away in praising the strength of his wife's coffee, and

became a little too specific. The audience howled with laughter, but the judges fined him fifteen cents.

These fines were used to buy kerosene for the reflector-equipped wall lamps, and were the only expense connected with the meetings, since the wood used to heat the building was cut in the early fall in a community "working." But when the coal-oil fund ran low "you didn't hardly dare open your mouth or they'd slap a fine on you."

Sometimes a mock trial was held instead of the debate. There were usually one or two young men who were reading law who were willing to air their knowledge, so the affair had some resemblance to the real thing. This resemblance, however, was only fleeting, and usually the proceedings would have made Blackstone spin in his grave.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MT. VERNON

According to a paper on "Early Churches of Jefferson County," written in 1947 by Rev. C. H. Todd, pastor of the First Methodist Church at the time, the Baptists held the first church organization in the territory that now comprises the city limits of Mt. Vernon. (EDITORIAL NOTE: The Methodists met earlier, but outside the city limits.) A Mr. Carpenter held a meeting in the old court house and organized a Society of Baptists in 1820. Services continued in the court house, near the creek, this being nearer the center of population at that time. Among the names associated with this early fellowship were Norton, Harlow and Jordan.

Despite the proximity of an abundance of water, frequent floods soon convinced those pioneer Baptists that this was not the most desirable location for a place of worship, and the Society moved to the residence of William Hicks, where services were held for five or six years.

In the meantime, Thomas Pace and other settlers had cleared a trail down southeast through what was at one time the old fair grounds, to a deep hole in the creek where they could water their horses even in dry weather. Near this location, called "Horse Hole," the Baptists erected a spacious (for those days) place of worship. Puncheon seats were provided and services were held under the trees whenever possible. Here the first Baptist Association in Jefferson

County was held in the fall of 1829. Rev. Carpenter, who organized the Society, continued as pastor. Rarely in those days did the Baptists call any one from far away from their location as pastor. The building erected near "Horse Hole" was used as a worship center until about 1835 or 1836.

A second Baptist church was built "up the creek," about a half mile north of what is now the Fairfield Road, in the year 1833. This worship center consisted of four large cabins about ten feet apart forming a rectangle, the largest cabin being used for worship and the others for sleeping purposes during camp meeting occasions or other services. Members and friends from Mt. Vernon found their way down a trail for services and for sessions of foot washing, which was conscientiously observed.

In the early 1860's a "sainted mother in Israel," the wife of jeweler G. W. Morgan, began to invite some children who did not attend Sunday School at any church to meet in her dining room (they lived at or near Ninth and Jordan Streets, probably about the site of the old Mahaffey House), and she also invited other children who were regular pupils in other Sunday Schools to keep them company. Mrs. Morgan herself attended the Methodist and Presbyterian services. Some of the churches held Sunday School in the morning, others in the afternoon, so a good many people attended more than one session, partly because there wasn't much else to do. The group grew too large for the dining room and Mrs. Morgan's brother, Mr. Sturgis, offered his carpenter shop as a meeting place.

The early Baptists, previously mentioned, were evidently of the "Hard Shell" or Primitive variety, and the group in the carpenter shop were apparently the first organization of Missionary Baptists in Mt. Vernon. These Missionary Baptists organized a church in 1868 and soon built a plain frame house on South Ninth Street at a cost of approximately $4000. This location was south of Jordan Street and just south of the old Mahaffey House lot.

A story of the organization of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, is eloquently told in a few words, by the Minutes of the Organizational Meetings, which have been faithfully copied into each of the Church Minute Books, as follows:

"July 17, 1868
Mt. Vernon
Jefferson County Illinois

Pursuant to arrangements, we, the undersigned, met at the Campbellite Church for the purpose of organizing ourselves into a church. Brother I. W. Brooks of Ashley presided over the meeting. The object of the meeting being announced, those desiring membership in this branch of Zion were requested to come forward. The following brethren presented their names:

Bro. R. A. Grant; Bro. G. W. Morgan; Bro. D. Sturgis; Bro. I. Mitchell; Bro. G. I. Mayhew; Sister E. D. Grant; Sister D. A. Morgan; Sister A. A. Sturgis; Sister Sarah Grey; Sister Martha D. Haney; Sister Martha Maynor; Sister Mary McKee; Sister Sarah Malone; Sister Mary Mitchell. After presenting their names, we proceeded to business by electing Bro. Brooks, Moderator and Bro. D. Sturgis, Clerk. Brother Grant moved that Bro. Brooks read the Church Covenant. The motion was sustained. Bro. Brooks suggested that a Committee be appointed to invite three or more Elders to sit in council on Thursday, previous to the second Sabbath in August to ratify the proceedings of the meeting. Brother Grant moved that Bro. Brooks, Bro. Morgan, and Bro. Mayhew be the committee. The motion was sustained. No further business presenting itself, the meeting was closed with a very appropriate prayer and benediction.

Bro. I. W. Brooks, Moderator
Bro. D. Sturgis, Clerk"

On August 6, 1868, the "members of the regular Baptist Church of this place and vicinity" met at the Presbyterian Church and proceeded to organize what they decided to call the First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. The "Campbellite Church" mentioned in the Minutes (officially then as now the Church of Christ) was apparently also known as Heiserman's Hall and was on the second floor above Heiserman's Bakery on the southeast corner of Ninth and Jordan which was later the location of Herrins' Grocery (the Herrins were prominent early members of the First Baptist Church), one of our earliest movie houses and Lipps' Grocery. The Presbyterian Church, where the actual organization meeting was held, was apparently on Fourteenth Street between Main and Broadway and just across the street south from the Appellate Court. Bro. I. W. Brooks was elected as the first pastor of the church on September 21, 1868, with Bro. Grant and Bro. Mayhew as the first deacons and Bro. D. Sturgis as clerk. Mrs. Amelia Poole was the first person baptized into the fellowship of the new church, and for about seventy years she continued as one of the most faithful members of the church.

Immediately after the organization, the first place of worship was an old carpenter shop (possibly the same one where the Sunday School was held). Two classes constituted the Sunday School, and eighteen was considered to be a good attendance, with preaching once a month. But as some one has said, "They grew and as they grew they built." In 1871, Lots 9, 10 and 12 in Block 3 in Storms Survey were purchased. These lots were in the block south of Jordan Street with Lots 9 and 12 facint on Ninth Street and Lot 10 facing Tenth Street. A church was built on Lot 9 with the parsonage either next door or as a part of the church building. Bro. D. Sturgis was Daniel Sturgis who died in the fall of 1912 (the last of the Charter Members). He had lumber to build a home on the southwest corner of Ninth and Jordan but contributed it for use in building the new church and waited several years before he was able to build his own home.

The congregation worshiped at this location until the cyclone of 1888, which destroyed the church and parsonage. On March 26, 1888, the trustees purchased a tract on the southwest corner of Block 12 in Greens' Addition (8th and Jordan) from Dr. W. Duff Green and his wife Corinna, and on October 6 of that year the trustees deeded the property to the First Baptist Church; a new church was erected and dedicated in the fall of 1888 with Dr. John Broadus, President of the Louisville Theological Seminary, preaching the dedicatory sermon. The "new" church in time proved too small, and extensive remodeling and enlarging was done in 1904, 1909 and 1916.

This church is now engaged in a new church building program which calls for a new location and a new church building in the near future. A beautiful site has been purchased near the north edge of the city, the foundation has been laid, plans are almost complete, and a considerable portion of the money is already available.

Pastors of the First Baptist Church have been: 1868, Rev. J. W. Brooks, the first paston; 1869, no pastor reported to the State Convention nor to the Salem South Association. The Church Clerk was D. Sturgis; 1870-1871, D. W. Morgan (we wonder if this could have been the Delilah Morgan who started the Sunday School); 1872, J. F. James; 1873-1875, W. Sanford Gee; 1876, B. C. Crawford; 1877-1878, Calvin Allen; 1879, C. Davis; 1880, no pastor reported to the State Convention

or to Salem South Association; 1881, W. B. Vassar; 1882, Dismissed from State Convention by request of church; 1883-1886, J. J. Midkiff; 1887-1889, W. D. Throgmorton; 1890, H. W. Thiele; 1891-1892, J. D. Hooker; 1893, George P. Hoster; 1894, J. D. Hooker; September, 1894-October 19, 1896, J. C. Harriss; December 16, 1896-July 3, 1898, J. N. Monroe; October 12, 1898-August 2, 1899, A. W. Claxon; October 1, 1899-November 27, 1901, W. C. McCall; March 5, 1902-December 2, 1903, J. P. Langley; January 12, 1904-January 1, 1908, A. A. Todd; April 15, 1908-September 27, 1911, W. L. Dorgan; March 3, 1912-March 15, 1919, Jesse H. Wells; October 16, 1919-April 1, 1925, H. E. Truex; June 28, 1926-April 15, 1929, F. O. Criminger; September 15, 1929-October 1, 1935, W. B. Morris; February 16, 1936-September 5, 1944, Robert E. Larson; March 4, 1945-August 11, 1947, W. W. Harvey; June 1, 1948-July 21, 1955, Andrew J. Caraker; September 11, 1955-June 3, 1956, Daniel Heitmeyer (Interim Pastor); June 17, 1956-present, Eugene L. Holcom'

--Prepared by:

Harold C. Howard

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

The first congregation of the Church of Christ in Mt. Vernon was organized on October 3, 1853 with twenty-one members. Ministers present were I. C. Ashley, John E. McBryan, John A. Williams and Horace Watrons. Carefully preserved to this day is the first written record of the occasion, all inscribed in the hand of Harvey T. Pace, the first clerk of the congregation.

The names of the charter members follow: Alfred Morgan, Moses Baugh, Solomon Ford, John Stewart, John Baugh, William Baugh, John Baugh, Jr., Harvey T. Pace, Nancy Wells, Polly Baugh, Rosan Baugh, Elizabeth Hart, Sarah Ford, Priscilla Nelcher, Nancy Pace, Jane Moore, Mary Stewart, John W. Lee, Lea N. Lee, Susan Branchcomb, and Nancy Wallace.

The work of organizing a local church was principally led by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey T. Pace. It was their deep conviction that the Church must flourish in unity "upon the Word of God alone as the rule of faith and practice." In addition to serving as the congregation's first clerk, Mr. Pace purchased and maintained with his private means the first house of worship. From the day of its organization, the congregation had been meeting in the Jefferson County Court House. It was the county's second judicial center, having been built in 1840. The structure was forty feet square, with a square roof. The court room, used by the Church of Christ on Sunday, was on the first floor with four offices above. Doors opened on the south, east, and west, making quite a formidable appearance. Here the congregation met for several months.

On November 3, 1853, exactly one month after the church's organization, Mr. Pace negotiated for the purchase of the old frame building belonging to the Mt. Vernon Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the sum of $345. The structure was one of historical significance. It was the first church building in Mt. Vernon, being erected in the year 1834. In 1840 it was remodeled with an additional twelve feet added to its overall length. Lt. Gov. Zadok Casey presented a bell which hung in the church's belfry for many years. About this time the building was the scene of a political discussion between Abraham Lincoln and John A. McClernand, the meeting being held in the

church due to the court house's temporary inadequate condition. By the summer of 1854, shortly following Mr. Pace's purchase of the property, the structure was satisfactorily renovated for use and the Church of Christ moved in. Here, in its first home, the congregation met for twenty years, growing with prestige in the community at times, and weakening at others.

With a serious loss of numbers through death and removals, the congregation fell into difficult times, and in 1874 was forced to disband, with the last recorded additions made on August 9 of that year. Following the death of Mrs. Pace in 1875 and Harvey T. Pace in 1876, the property fell into the hands of those who, on one occasion, made it available to the local military company. A Mt. Vernon newspaper remarked concerning the transaction: "The Christian Church building has been rented by the owner of Co. D as an armory. Many delightful memories cluster around this old land-mark, and it seems strange to see the house, whose walls for so many years resounded to the teaching of the Prince of Peace, occupied by a military company, and filled with the accouterments of war." For the next twelve years, the Church of Christ was inactive.

It is difficult to establish the names of ministers and the time of their service for this earliest period. With the meager information available, we can surmise that the preaching and guidance of John E. McBryan led the little congregation during the very first years. Records show that John N. Mulkie was leading when the period closed in 1874. Just who those were that ministered during the hard years of the War Between the States is not known.

No attempt of revival was achieved until in February, 1886, when J. W. Robbins of Illiopolis, Illinois, was able to stir the "Christians Only" to a new life through the results of a five-weeks' evangelistic meeting. With the first seven converts and the remaining members of the congregation organized in 1853, a new charter was written on March 14, 1886. At the close of the campaign two weeks later, the membership of the church numbered thirty-seven.

With B. R. Gilbert as the first pastor of the newly restored church, the first services were held in the court house, reminiscent of earlier days, meeting regularly each Lord's Day. In November, the

same year, another evangelistic meeting was held by E. J. Lampton of Missouri. During the three weeks of this campaign, the congregation was strengthened and enlarged. A Bible School was organized with thirty children enrolled. With this added constituency, the church moved to Heiserman's Hall, where services were held until February 19, 1888. On the afternoon of that day, a great tornado swept through the city, destroying this building. Prompt action was taken to secure another meeting place.

Under the careful direction of Dr. H. S. Plumer and Mrs. G. F. M. Ward, serving as building committee, a new structure was begun in the summer of 1888 on the southwest corner of South Tenth and Jordan Streets. The building was completed in the following year, and on March 10, 1889, with the notable J. H. Garrison conducting the services, the new structure was dedicated.

The church on South Tenth Street was the scene of a number of fruitful evangelistic campaigns led by some of the most celebrated preachers and singers of their day. Among these were Rufus A. Finnell, Frank C. Huston, John T. Brown, Mr. Daugherty, W. H. Book and J. V. Coombs. The congregation's resident ministers through these years, and until 1915 included: B. R. Gilbert, S. A. Cook, H. A. McCarty, C. M. Smithson, A. L. West, J. M. Francis, Frank C. Huston, J. H. Stambaugh, J. E. Pritchett, and Carl L. Green. During the ministry of Smithson several additions were made to the building facilities.

With the beginning of the ministry of D. D. Burt in May, 1915, interest was aroused in the direction of a much-needed building program. While the congregation met in the court house and opera house intermittently, after disposing of the house of worship at Tenth and Jordan Streets, an edifice was being erected on the former site of the home of Dr. and Mrs. H. S. Plummer, Tenth and North Streets. Brother Burt died in the midst of the building program, and Benjamin W. Tate came to carry on the work. Heading the general supervision of the construction was the building committee composed of G. F. M. Ward, D. B. Owsley, H. V. Hill, Bert McTaggart and J. Francis Cochran. The contract was awarded for an amount less than $13,000.

By the close of B. W. Tate's ministry in January, 1918, the congregation had grown measureably, doing well during those early months of the First World War. Bruce Kershner served a short ad interim ministry before the coming of Orville Hawkins in the spring to lead in a strongly evangelistic program that continued through 1922. E. E. Pedicord came for a short ministry, and In October 1923 he was followed by Meyer A. Madsen. The pulpit ministry was attended in the years following by Adam K. Adcock, M. P. Pierson, Harold O. Lowe, J. W. Kilborn, J. Franklin Baxter. In February, 1933, George P. Rutledge arrived to give the declining fourteen years of his life to the Central Church of Christ. After a colorful career as preacher, educator, lecturer, writer and editor of the Christian Standard, Mr. Rutledge gave the treasures of his broad experience to growth and establishment in faith for the local church. At his death in 1947, J. G. Parsons, then associate minister, stood at the helm until the arrival of Edwin V. Hayden in May, 1948. Mr. Hayden led the congregation in a careful teaching ministry. In the four years that followed, a parsonage was purchased.

During the ministry of Lester E. Pifer, which began in September, 1952, the beautiful auditorium was built. The congregation purchased the Adah P. Fly home north of the old building for a Bible School Annex. The Peterson property adjacent to it was purchased, the house was razed, and the annex building was moved to provide the present parsonage on the former Peterson lot. This cleared the ground for the erection of the new auditorium. The ground-breaking ceremony following morning worship on April 24, 1955, heralded the beginning of a $175,000 building fund campaign. The cornerstone was laid on October 16 of the same year, with Dr. Harry Poll, then minister of the Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, as principal speaker. The building was completed in 1958 and dedication services were conducted on the afternoon of March 23, 1958.

In addition to the material accomplishments indicated above, a living-link missionary program was inaugurated, with the church assuming the support of Mrs. R. LaVerne Morse (nee Lois Elliott) who with her husband is a missionary in North Burma. The church also expanded its ministry by the establishing of an associate ministry.

The following young men have served in this capacity: Richard Williams, Dale Erickson, and Gerald Denny, the present associate minister.

Mr. Pifer closed his ministry in the fall of 1959 and in February, 1960 the present minister, Herbert J. Wilson, was called. Under his ministry the church has steadily reduced the new building and the day draws nearer when the final phase of the building program can be carried forward, the remodeling of the old building into a suitable educational plant. The church is increasing its missionary concern and has made significant advances in Christian education and stewardship. A new library has been inaugurated and specialized training for teachers and new members has been developed.

CHRIST GOSPEL CHAPEL

A group of people who lived in the north end of Mt. Vernon met in different homes each Tuesday night to have prayer meeting. They were known as The North Side Prayer Band. Then a tent was raised on the lawn of one of the members of the group, Mrs. Lorene (Grandma) Sechrest. In the month of June, 1944, Rev. William Fout of Marion, Ohio, held a revival and much interest was shown. The first baptismal service, in July, 1944, was held at the old pump house following the revival.

On July 2, 1944, the group met to make plans to build a church. Rev. William Fout was elected pastor and served for about six months. Rev. and Mrs. George H. Shelton leased, free of charge, the lot and the material for building the church to the group. The work was done by volunteers in their spare time. The ladies supplied the lunches. The location was at 1102 Warren Avenue, Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and the church became known as "Christ Gospel Chapel."

On November 4, 1945, Thomas Foster passed away and his funeral was the first to be held in the church which was not yet finished. The men hurried to get enough of the work done to make it possible to have the funeral in the building. Mr. Foster had helped with the work on the basement and the foundation of the building. The group had continued to meet each Tuesday night in the homes. Now they held the first Sunday School on the Sunday

following Mr. Foster's funeral. Rev. Frank Staley was elected Sunday School Superintendent, and Mr. Gideon Covalt was elected assistant superintendent.

On October 13, 1946, Rev. George H. Shelton became the pastor of the church.

Over three hundred and fifty people have sought spiritual help at the altar of this church, and twenty-five have been licensed to preach the Gospel.

On January 1, 1947, Donald Depoister was elected Sunday School Superintendent, and the Sunday School grew under his leadership. He held this office until his death on September 29, 1960. Gideon Covalt continued as assistant superintendent until his death on January 12, 1956.

The first wedding to take place in the church was the wedding of William McGuire and Maxine B. Payne, both of Mt. Vernon. The ceremony was performed by Rev. George H. Shelton on December 25, 1948, at 2:00 p. m.

The North Side Prayer Band Church, which was organized by Rev. George H. Shelton on July 2, 1944, is incorporated under the name "Independent Christ Gospel Chapel." Rev. Shelton has been serving as pastor of the church for fifteen years.

-- George H. Shelton

MT. VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

The Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1920 by a group of local businessmen and incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1921.

Shortly after incorporation the Chamber entered into negotiations to bring the Mt. Vernon Stove Company to this city. Negotiations were successfully concluded and this plant, due to astute management, has enjoyed a continual growth, has expanded facilities and has been in employment for many years. When many foundries over the nation were going out of business, the Mt. Vernon Furnace and Manufacturing Company, as it is known by today, was making plans for new products and

new markets. Two of the "Vernois" officials are past presidents of the Chamber of Commerce: Carl Schweinfurth and Dale Carpenter.

The first president of the Chamber in 1921 was Vol E. Richardson, who is still an active businessman in this city. He was succeeded by C. L. Stratton, H. B. Ward, Carl Steinhauser, then Carl Schweinfurth for two terms. In 1927, Lester Starr was elected president. He was followed by George N. Webb, William H. Gott, W. B. Myers (two terms), J. Earl Davidson, Guy A. Wood (two terms), Harold Howard (two terms), R. O. Kaufman, Ray Bundy (two terms), David C. Arthurs (two terms), Marion Heifner, Paul Fitch, George Ward (two terms), Harry Ford, Lawrence Collins, J. Lester Buford, Charles C. Croup, Basil Moss, Charles J. Covington, Charles S. Ward, C. Dale Carpenter, R. LeBen Garrison, D. A. Laird, Stan Koziara, C. E. Brehm, Ray Tibbs, Boyce Huson, Edward E. Curtis, J. Marvin Powers, and the present chief officer, James E. Carter.

Ten executive secretaries or managers have served the Chamber for the forty-one year period. Morris Emmerson served the first seven years, followed by George Reeder for six years. George is manager at Moline, Illinois, at present. T. N. Jordan followed Reeder, serving eleven years. Then followed John E. Miller, Ed Dirks, Walton P. Gillespie, Hudson Biery, William Green, James Cannon and Joe Winfrey.

Every major commercial or industrial development in the community has either been fostered through the Chamber of Commerce or been aided along the line in many ways. Established businesses and businessmen have been provided with "Leaders Workshops", promotional ideas and materials, economic discussion courses, political action courses, product shows at fairs and on television.

Fire prevention has, each year, been a worthwhile project in cooperation with local fire departments. The local Chamber was awarded a special citation by the U. S. Chamber in 1958 for the local Fire-Safety Program.

In 1957 the Highway Committee of the Chamber started planning and working to get U. S. Highway #64 relocated on a route through Mt. Vernon, and this committee has continued to compile statistics for presentation to the Highway Department and Bureau of Public Roads, which will aid them in making a decision.

The Chamber has been called upon several times to make surveys of available labor in the area.

Hundreds of small projects, that ordinarily go unnoticed by the general public, have been sponsored and many times financed by the Chamber. Prospective businesses have requested information that required time and effort by members and the staff. Conventions, 4-H programs and projects, and many of the civic projects have been sponsored or aided to a successful conclusion. Member-businessmen have made hundreds of trips at their own expense to interview prospects for new industry. Others have attended water conferences, health conferences, and street and road meetings in Springfield and Chicago. Many others have gone to Washington on matters of legislation which would directly affect the community.

City management government, good zoning, city beautification, and many other projects that affect the economy and attractiveness of the community, originated in the Mt. Vernon Chamber.

HISTORIC SITES AND ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

(from a paper by Doris and Margaret Ann Cummings delivered before the Jefferson County Historical Society held in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, July 8, 1947.)

Perhaps the first recorded white man to traverse our county was George Rogers Clark, who with his soldiers in 1777 blazed his way towards Vincennes.

The Indians roamed Jefferson County for hunting and trading. They carried their pelts to Shawneetown, Kaskaskia and St. Louis; and on their return they bartered a variety of articles among the white settlers here.

In 1819-20 the Delawares came through the county on their way to the western reservation. For some reason they remained here for a considerable length of time. A large number were encamped on a creek where John Pearcy lived. About six hundred were encamped for a time on Horse Creek about eight or ten miles from Mt. Vernon.

Isaac Casey's daughters paid one group of Indians a visit. The old chief, who had several lovely Indian daughters, treated the

white girls royally. Many of the whites visited the Indians who always treated them well. If the settlers refused to eat with the Indians, their hosts would feel offended; however, when the settlers accepted the Indians' invitations, the red men were highly pleased and declined to eat until their paleface guests had been served and had finished their meal.

The only probable early murder thought to have been done by the Indians was that of Andrew Moore, the first white settler, who settled in what is now Moores Prairie. Legend tells the story that one day Andrew and some friends from the Saline settlement were out in the woods splitting some board timber when two redskins joined them. In order to get them to leave, Moore by signs finally persuaded the Indians to help him hold the log open. They put their fingers into the wedge. Moore struck the wooden wedge causing it to fly out, and the log shut on the Indians' fingers. Moore and his friends finally released the Indians who stalked away in their hurt dignity. Revenge, according to the story, was the reason for the death of Moore, who was among supposedly friendly Indians. A few years later the skull of Moore was found and eventually was buried in what is now a pasture not far from Bell's Point School.

Few traces of the early Indians now remain in this county. A few stone hatchets, arrowheads, etc., have been found in the vicinity of the old camps. Nothing like the ruins of an Indian village or a burying ground is known to exist; however, near the old fairgrounds there are a few mounds or hillocks which are thought to be probable remains of an Indian cemetery.

In 1816 Carter Wilkey made the first permenent settlement in Jefferson County. Also, about this time Daniel Crenshaw and Robert Cook came to the county. All these settled in Moores Prairie. Crenshaw moved into Moore's deserted cabin. Then, too, came Maxey Wilkey, who had sixteen children. He was also one of the party that opened the old Goshen trail into a wagon road.

Daniel Crenshaw's home was a stopping place for those pioneers who were pushing northward from Kentucky and Tennessee to the "Sangamo country," as middle and northern Illinois were called. It was no uncommon sight to see a hundred wagons in a single company headed north.

Mr. Carter Wilkey long practiced the business of going to Carmi with three pack horses to bring back meal to sell to these movers at two dollars a bushel. It was a good business for that day, even if he could bring back only two or three sacks of grain.

How thinly settled was this section can be seen in the report made by Robert Breeze after he came to our county about 1826. Some time before he came from Orange County, Indiana, to Grand Prairie Township, Robert made a trip from Kaskaskia to Vincennes over the old Vincennes-Kaskaskia Trace, which went through the northern part of Grand Prairie. He stated that there was not a house nor a cabin along the trace; thus he had to sleep out in the open.

The early pioneer home was quite a different architectural and interior decorating problem to that of the modern home of today. The farms, as in most frontier countries, were mere patches enclosed with rails or brush. The houses were round-pole cabins, sometimes in rare cases made of small logs, "skelped down" or very slightly hewn, sometimes of split logs smoothed a little on the face. Some of the cracks were chinked and daubed, while some were left open to admit light and serve as windows. Some of the cabins had cracks so large a dog could jump through. If the floor was anything else but bare ground, it was made of puncheons or slabs, fastened down with wooden pins or not fastened at all.

Shelves resting on long pins in the walls served for cupboard, pantry, bureau and wardrobe. Since there were few bedsteads, bed scaffolds were made on two rails or pieces driven into the walls, one for the side and one for the end. The corner of the cabin formed the other two sides. On these, boards were placed and on the boards the bed was laid.

The following story indicates the architectural unsoundness of these early cabins. Barton Atchison, one of the early pioneer Jeffersonites, told this story of an experience of his during the War of 1812. While hunting, Barton and his soldier friends were forced to seek shelter from the snow and cold in a small cabin. They started to roll up in their blankets for the night, then decided that others might also come for shelter; so, putting boards on poles in the loft, they finally rolled up to sleep. A band of Indians came in, kindled a

fire, roasted a little meat, and began a night carousal. Atchison, shifting himself on the boards in order to see better, lost his balance and tumbled out of the loft onto the heads of the Indians. Needless to say, the Indians fled in terror and confusion.

In those early days cooking utensils were few in number. The well-to-do had a pot and a skillet; not a few settlers broiled their meat on the coals and cooked their "johnny cake" on a board.

Many of the first settlers had to beat their meal in a mortar which was generally a stump with a basin burned out in the top of the stump. Meal thus ground was sifted through a sieve which was made by punching holes in a piece of deerskin with a hot wheel-spindle and by stretching the deerskin over a hoop. The coarser corn was used for hominy, the finer for meal.

Isaac and William Casey constructed a little hand mill (the first in the township) that would grind a bushel or two a day.

One of the first mills known in Jefferson County was that of old Billy Goins (1817); however, since he kept a tavern, a grocery (Now it would be called a saloon), and many other things including bad company, his mill was patronized by the "better settler" only in dire emergencies. In 1818 Dempsey Hood built his mill and used buhrs from Goins'. This mill was operated by horse power.

Of the many stories told about these early mills a few might be recorded. One man said he always took the corn to the mill on the ear, for he could shell the corn faster than the mill could grind it. Then, too, he had the cobs to throw at the rats to keep them from eating the corn as it came down the hopper. Another story about Hood's mill is that if the grain of corn got in "crossways" the mill had to be stopped until the obstacle was removed.

Still another story of the first water mill erected is told. The miller put the grist in the hopper and turned on the water. As the mill got under way, the miller heard the gobble of a turkey in the nearby woods and started out to hunt it. A bluejay lighted on the hoop around the buhrs and ate every grain of corn as it came down the hopper. When the miller returned, the jay had eaten all the corn and the millstones were worn out.

William Maxey's mill built in the fall of 1820 contributed largely to the supply of bread for the settler. Carter Wilkey put up a stump mill. In the fall of 1823 Thomas Turnstall put up a tread mill, the first of the kind in the county. All these early mills -- whether hand, stump, wind, tread, or horse -- had one feature in common -- slow speed.

According to the early history of the county, snakes were as plentiful here as in Ireland prior to St. Patrick's era. Mr. Johnson tells this story:

"It was in 1820 that the first little old log schoolhouse was built at Old Shiloh. Soon after the man, James Douglas, appeared in the neighborhood and got up a school. A few weeks later so many snakes had appeared that all concluded that there must be a den in the vicinity. All the settlers assembled armed with hoes, axes, spades, clubs and guns, and still not prepared for that task confronting them. Every tuft of grass concealed a snake; every rock covered one; every hole and crevice contained one; every nook was full of them. Frequently, on turning a rock, eight to ten snakes would be found coiled together under it. Rattlesnakes, copperheads, vipers, adders, mocassins, all seemed to have made peace and taken up abode together. Nearly three hundred rattlers were killed and five hundred snakes all together."

Shiloh wasn't the only snake infested place:

"Henry Tyler settled at what is now known as the Brown place in March, 1823, some seven miles north of town. Aunt Katy found a rattlesnake one morning coiled on one of the bars when she went to milk the cow. One day as Elihu Maxey was visiting the Tylers, the snakes began to spread themselves. One crawled out of the jam, another out of a crack in the hearth, another on the doorstep. Seven snakes were killed that day in the house. Tyler and Tom Casey began to investigate and soon had killed and laid out one hundred and seventy. Next day with help they killed 217 more. Tyler decided that the entire hill had 'snakes in its boots' so he moved away."

Some two or three hundred snakes were killed at Joliff's sugar camp branch. Northeast of Rome (Dix) there was a stream named Snake Den Branch in memory of the venomous reptiles.

The first birth, marriage and death are always matters of considerable interest in a new country and are usually recorded. The first birth(in 1817) in Jefferson County is believed to have been the son of Isaac Hicks, son-in-law of Isaac Casey. The first death (1818) was that of Perigan Maxey, the one-year old child of Burchette and Margaret Maxey. According to the history of the Maxey Family written in 1925 by Walter S. Maxey, the following is recorded:

"They buried the little fellow (William Perigan) on a hill some fifty yards west of the rock branch, and this is the first white person buried in Jefferson County.

"Some months later Hostillina, the little sister of Burchett Maxey, died and was buried by the side of Perigan (she was five or six years old)...Loving hands carried many rocks from the branch nearby and made a border around these graves that is well marked and distinct to this day (1925)....while the timber has been cleared away, they (the owners of the land) have left three good sized young trees near the graves and have never cultivated the land close to the graves....

"Near these two little graves is a square outline of rocks about three feet square that an old settler told me was, according to tradition, where they buried the skull found and supposed to be that of Andrew Moore. I think this highly probable, and why the Maxeys selected this spot for their children's graves. In August, 1916, my brothers and I erected a substantial marker to these graves."

In 1820, the first adult's death was that of Rhoda Allen (August 24), who was the first person buried at Old Union. Aunt Milly Tyler was the first woman buried at Old Union. Her grave is close to that of "Roaring Billy" Woods, and was covered with a brick arch of pretty neat workmanship. Susan Avant Moss, the first wife of Ransom Moss, was the first woman to be buried at Shiloh Cemetery.

Upon the death of Susan Moss, Old Shiloh Cemetery was laid out by Governor Casey, William Maxey, and Lewis Johnson in the year 1820.

Old Union Cemetery has many historic memories. Here one can find the graves of Zadok Casey (enclosed in iron fencing), Rhoda Allen, Asa Watson, the early Johnsons, and Harvey T. Pace, along with many of the other early settlers of this period.

In our wanderings through the old cemeteries we found Pleasant Grove to be more interesting to us than Old Union; perhaps the ease in locating the graves without fighting tall grass, weeds, poison ivy, etc., at Pleasant Grove was the chief reason. At Pleasant Grove there is a tablet upon which the following is written:

"In memory of an infant first child of Thomas M. and Harriet Casey which was still born July 9, 1820. The above was the first interment made in this Church Yard, the land being donated by its parents to the Methodist Episcopal Church for burial and other purposes forever."

Also at this cemetery can be found the graves of William Maxey, his wife, and his ten children with one exception. One of these children was the famous Henry Burchette Maxey, so named by father William for the famous minister Henry Burchette. Burchette, as he is more commonly called, built the first house on the public square, which was torn down in order to build the Third National Bank. Here, too, can

be found the grave and marker of Peter Owen, a Revolutionary War soldier in Col. Nelson's Virginia Regiment.

A panoramic story of early Jefferson County settlers is recorded on the tombstones in the various old cemeteries in the county. A careful study of Pace Cemetery, Old Union, Shiloh, Pleasant Grove, and others, will recount those who laid the foundation for the development of Jefferson County. Unfortunately, the graves of many of the early settlers are unmarked and unknown.

The first marriage of record in the county was that of a daughter of Joseph Jordan to Garison Greenwood, a son of Fleming Greenwood. Among the early marriages there are a few of special note. On the fifth of October, 1819, Zadok Casey performed a triple wedding with Harriet Maxey to Thomas M. Casey, Vylinda Maxey to Abraham T. Casey, and Bennett N. Maxey to Sally Overbay, adopted daughter of the Caseys, being the young people concerned. It was the largest wedding of the period in style, in number of guests, and in the number of brides and grooms. Every family in the county was invited; all who could attended, and the "good cheer" was the best the county afforded.

A very humorous account was told concerning the first wedding ceremony performed by William Maxey, one of the first justices of peace, who was appointed in 1821. Being naturally shy and reserved Mr. Maxey dreaded this first marriage ceremony, uniting Ransom Moss and Anna Johnson. The marriage took place July 6, 1821, and William had carefully practiced the service. He thought he "knew his piece;" but when the time came, he lost his cue and became confused. Some say he commenced to recite the Declaration of Independence and discovering his mistake, he went back; starting over, he drifted into the Constitution of the United States. Finally with the aid of a Methodist book of discipline and Clark's commentaries, he concluded with this prayer to the "Lord have mercy on their souls."

In the fall of 1822 Jordan's Prairie (Rome Township) was quite disturbed when news came at Sabbath services being conducted by Zadok Casey that little Erasmus Howell, age six or seven, son of Thomas Howell (who later became the second sheriff of Jefferson County), was lost in the woods. The service was dismissed while all joined in the hunt for Erasmus. From Sunday to Wednesday the search continued. On

Thursday morning Green P. Casey, on the Centralia Road, was feeding his horses when from the southeast he heard a wail. He began to search to see if it were a child or a panther. He found Erasmus nearly starved in the tall grass. Casey took the little boy to his home, fed him bread and milk, then took him to the Howells.

Let us turn to Mt. Vernon Township and the City of Mt. Vernon. The first settlers of this township -- Isaac Casey, William his son, Brunetta his daughter, and Isaac Hicks, his son-in-law -- came in the spring of 1816 from the Ohio River near Cave-in-Rock and made camp on the northern edge of the prairie just east of where the Appellate Court building now stands. After the camp had been deserted and rotted down, a locust tree sprang up on the old chimney pile -- the same tree that stood so long in the street east of the Appellate Court House.

In this day of high priced real estate the prices of the first sale of lots in Mt. Vernon seem unbelievably low. Yet with the medium of exchange being generally the skins of animals, perhaps these prices were not so low in those early days. What is now the First National Bank lot (southwest corner of Tenth and Main) first sold for $136. It was on this site that Burchette Maxey, grandfather of Moss Maxey, built the first house in the town. Bond's corner sold for $160. It was on this corner in the woods that Zadok Casey used to preach. When word was spread that Casey was to preach, so popular was he that all who could gathered to hear him.

When Joel Pace, Senior, came to Jefferson County in 1819, he had been appointed by Judge Brown of Shawneetown, "Judge of the Realm," to three offices -- Circuit Clerk of Jefferson County, Recorder, and Notary Public. After coming to the county, he was also appointed county clerk. Not only did Pace find time to attend to these four offices, but also he taught school at Shiloh, the first school in the county.

One of the rather interesting early anecdotes about Mt. Vernon has to do with a general fight (1820) in which nearly the whole population of the county took part. Mr. Johnson says:

"It was said that some of the Maxeys had said that the Maxeys and the Caseys were going to rule the county. John Abbott determined to refute the idea by whipping the first one of them he might meet. This was noised abroad, and it fell to Elihu Maxey to measure strength

with Abbott. They met in town one day when nearly everybody else was there, and at it they went like a couple of modern pugilists. Everybody got excited; even Uncle Jimmy Johnson threw his old straw hat as far as he could send it and requested any other man that wanted to fight to come to him, while Jim Abbott danced around and said, 'anybody that whips John Abbott will have to whip Jim;' but Billy Casey picked Jim up and carried him off. The fight lasted about five minutes. It was roughly estimated that every man in town had his hat, coat, or vest off, calling for someone to fight him."

As our county grew, law enforcement became necessary. The circuit court October term in 1820 returned an indictment against Ferdinand Herrin for counterfeiting, and for the first time the county needed a jail. (It is interesting to note that while the first court house cost $160, the first jail -- on the southwest corner of Harrison and Ninth -- cost $320. The difference in the price was due to the number of logs used: 50 to 60 for the court house, over 200 for the jail.) (EDITORIAL NOTE: The old county jail building now stands in the Mt. Vernon City Park.) The prisoner was taken to the White County jail, from which he escaped. Upon his recapture, he was taken to Old Covington in Washington County until his trial in June Court of 1821. After he was found guilty, the judge (Judge Joseph Phillips) sentenced him to a $20 fine plus costs plus whipping of thirty-nine stripes on his bare back at 6:30 that evening. He was to be jailed until fine and costs were paid. The largest gathering of Jefferson County-ites to that time witnessed the whipping. Wages were so low and payment in jail so poor that Herrin was finally released with fine and costs still unpaid.

The court had nothing of special interest to us until the April term, 1841, when an indictment of murder was returned against Rollin Bradley charging him with the death of one Elijah P. King. Both King and Bradley lived in Elk Prairie. Bradley was an industrious man who kept a barrel of whiskey and who gained property as was common in those days. He became a determined and dangerous man. King, who came to Bradley's for whiskey, quarrelled with Bradley; and, taking a chair, knocked Bradley down and left him insensible. Upon regaining consciousness, Bradley swore revenge and said he'd kill King on sight. The next day when King came back to Bradley's for more whiskey, Bradley shot and killed King. Then Bradley fled, but later he was captured and tried for murder. The trial lasted from November 30 to December 8,

1841, with the verdict guilty being given. The sentence was hanging on January 3, 1842, between the hours of twelve and two. Bradley seemed indifferent to the proceedings of the trial, and at the conclusion he arose to get a drink of water as if nothing had happened. Bluford Hayes, a friend, returned from Springfield with a pardon for Bradley, thus disappointing a large crowd which had assembled for the execution.

On the lighter side, a humorous story is told of a court scene in Webber Township. Some years ago when Squire Marlow as justice of the peace was trying a case on a certain improvement, a rat ran across the court room floor and caught a chicken. Some one with great gravity made a motion that the rat be tried for contempt of court.

In 1840, the year before the Bradley trial, the circuit court was forced to meet in the unfinished Methodist Episcopal Church (just a few feet north of the present city hall on North 11th Street on the parking lot) because it was the only room in town large enough. While the court was in session, Abraham Lincoln and John A. McClernand, Whig and Democratic candidates for presidential electors, came to address the people. McClernand was given the entire noon intermission to speak; but when Lincoln began, the judge called court to order and political talks were banned. Mr. Kirby, owner of the Kirby Hotel, said he was "for fair play even in a dog fight;" so he invited Lincoln and the crowd to the shade in front of his hotel (present Sears, Roebuck Company, the Lincoln Building). Lincoln mounted the huge goods box Kirby set forth, and the crowd listened to his political speech, laughing and swearing at him for another hour or two. The Daughters of the American Revolution have placed a bronze tablet on the side of the entrance into the Lincoln Building (Sears, Roebuck), marking the spot where Lincoln spoke. Two members of the Jefferson County Historical Society, Vernadel Wood and Doris Cummings, unveiled this tablet.

One of the outstanding historical sites in Mt. Vernon is the Appellate Court Building. Mr. Perrin in his "History of Jefferson County" speaks of the judiciary branch of the government as "It is the jewel that from the cluster riven would leave all a dark and hopeless chaos." Localizing, we can say that Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County may well be termed the "seat of justices and home of judges." In 1848

Mt. Vernon, as well as Springfield and Ottawa, was made the site for one of the Supreme Court seats. Zadok Casey and Judge Scates were greatly responsible for Mt. Vernon's being chosen as one of these three seats. From 1848 until November, 1853, Supreme Court met in the old Odd Fellow Hall on Main Street, paying an annual rent of $75. From November, 1853, until the $16,000 Supreme Court Building was completed, the court met in the Masonic Hall over Joel Pace's store.

This Supreme Court made Mt. Vernon the political headquarters of Southern Illinois, for the great lawyers would spend days and weeks here at the protracted sittings of the court. These men would, of course, talk law and politics in their leisure time. Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, John A. Logan, John A. McClernand, and others would sit in the old Mt. Vernon Inn and talk to a select circle of boards. When they retired to their rooms for the evening, John A. Wall would blacken their boots for the next day's appearance in court. With the money he thus earned, Mr. Wall says he purchased his first pair of red top boots. The Supreme Court Building is now known as the Appellate Court; for, since the Supreme Court meets in Springfield, the Appellate Court has been held here. This building houses a law library which is one of the largest and most valuable in Illinois, and few finer can be found in the United States.

In 1845, April 30, Marion Lodge I. O. O. F. was organized. The charter members were John W. Greetham, James B. Tolle, Thomas Metsler, Hebert Woods, and William White. Dr. W. D. Green became a member next year and rapidly rose to the position of presiding officer of the Grand Lodge of the State.

Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 31 A. F. and A. M. charter was dated October 9, 1845, to William W. Bennett, M.; W. A. Thomas, S. W.; W. H. Short, J. W. At first they met, like everybody else in those days, where they could. Their first hall entitled to that name was in the room over the store of Joel Pace and Son, corner of Main and Union (Tenth) Streets. After the Stratton and Johnson building was erected at the corner of Washington and Bunyan (Ninth and Broadway), the order met on the second floor of that building.

The H. W. Hubbard Chapter No. 160, R. A. M., dates back to October 31, 1873. The principal officers were C. H. Patton, H. P.; R. A. D. Wilbanks, K.; S. S. Porter, S.

The Masonic Hall (Fraternal Hall), which burned to the ground on November 11, 1944, was once the old Opera House. The Mt. Vernon Daily Register for Saturday, June 24, 1893, discusses the Opera House. This building was one of the finest and best opera houses in Southern Illinois, the joint property of the Knights of Pythias and the Free Masons. It was lighted by electricity (1893), heated by a furnace, furnished with opera chairs, elegant scenery and curtains, and it cost over $10,000. The opera house was on the first floor, with the two lodges named having the second floor. This opera house was later remodeled to a three-story structure for use of the A. F. and A. M. and the K. P.

In the early days fire sometimes devastated small communities. Mt. Vernon was fortunate in not having many serious fires. In February, 1842, the first big fire occurred. The large two-story building occupied by W. J. Kirby that stood where Merrill's livery stable later stood on the corner of Main and Casey (Eleventh) was entirely destroyed by flames.

The next fire of any consequence was in the spring of 1863 when the tobacco warehouse of Varnell and Holloman near East Main Street was destroyed. In 1854 during the mayorship of B. C. Wells the first regular fire department was established in lieu of the old bucket brigade.

The entire block on the north of the public square, which later became the Phoenix Block, was swept by fire March 9, 1868. This fire was charged to a tailor who worked in a little shop. He had been arrested and fined for brutal treatment of his bound boy. This man disappeared about the time the fire broke out. It was supposed he fired his shop to get revenge for the people's having him prosecuted. Since the buildings were wooden and mud was four inches deep in the street, it was impossible to save the buildings and difficult to save the contents of the buildings. In the frenzy of the fire, thousands of dollars' worth of goods were thrown into the street and trampled in the mud.

Just twelve months later, on March 16, 1869, the court house burned. Rumor said that the fire originated in some late revels of W. E. Coffey, the sheriff. All the books and nearly all the papers belonging to the offices were saved. J. S. Bogan, who in answer to an

unusual call was going to his office in the dead of night to issue papers, discovered the fire.

On May 27, 1874, when the men had just gotten home from the day's work at the St. Louis and Southeastern Railroad Company machine shops, prolonged sounding of the whistle was heard, and Mt. Vernonites gathered to see the flames sweep over the combustible roofing of the shops. Little of the machinery was saved, and the building was a total loss. During the same year, the woolen factory and mills of J. B. Tolle burned, thus causing Mr. Tolle to be ruined financially.

Times have certainly changed the ideas and customs of a town. Today the fire department prides itself on its speed in reaching fires. It is interesting to note public opinion in 1897 in regard to the "speeding fire department." The following article appeared in the Mt. Vernon Daily News for Saturday, May 8, 1897:

"Stop It.

"It's time to call a halt in the fast and reckless manner in which the fire wagon is driven through the streets of Mt. Vernon. Last night on a call to practice the wagon dashed down East Main Street with the horses on full run, causing a scurrying to cover of pedestrians, bicyclists, and buggies whose occupants were out for a ride. At this hour it is usual for children to throng the streets, and a team dashing down on them at such a terrific rate of speed as that at which the wagon is usually driven, is liable to confuse the little ones and cause them to run into, instead of away from the danger. This thing has got to be stopped or it will be only a question of a very short time till we will be called upon to record a tragedy for which there can be no possible excuse. The driver of the wagon lays himself open to prosecution every time he drives at a too rapid or reckless gait, and it is the duty of our officers to see that the law is enforced.

"Sec. 1, Ordinance No. 159, provides under a penalty of not less than five dollars, 'That no person shall ride or drive any horse, mule or other animal, in or through any street, or avenue, or alley of the city of Mt. Vernon at a violent rate of speed, or at a greater speed than at the rate of six miles an hour.'

"And Sec. 5, Ordinance No. 138, provides under a penalty of not less than three nor more than fifty dollars that 'in no case shall the fire wagon, or hose and ladder wagon, be driven to a fire or alarm of fire in a manner calculated to endanger the safety of persons or property in the streets or avenues of said city.' From this it can be seen that every time the fire wagon is driven a rate to exceed six miles per hour, or is driven in a manner calculated to endanger the safety of any person in the street, the person or persons so offending are subject to a heavy fine. Were there any valid excuse for this wild driving the fault could be condoned, but when no plea of justification

can be set up in extenuation of the thing, further than a desire to show off, we demand that a stop be put to the practice and a unanimous public backs this demand."

There are two anecdotes of the period previous to the Civil War which might be included in our items of interest.

Thomas McCrary, Field Township, kept a station on the underground railroad. One day Andrew and William, his two sons, blacked their faces and hands at their father's charcoal pit, then went over into Rome Township to the home of one Harmon who boasted how he would treat the "niggers." As soon as the Harmon women saw the "niggers," they left their washing at the spring and ran for the house. The boys disappeared in the woods, cleaned themselves at the branch, then hurried back to the Harmon's to join in searching for the Negroes. The joke was too good to keep, so the boys told it. The next election day, a free-for-all fight occurred between the Harmon and McCrary factions (Abolition vs Slavery).

Mr. John A. Wall, one of the historians of Jefferson County, told than when he was just a boy he accompanied A. M. Grant, the jailor, to feed the inmates of our log jail. He also remembers of carelessly (perhaps intentionally) letting a kind-hearted old slave who had been captured and posted as a stray on runaway get away to freedom. The jailor had put the old slave out in the truck patch (City Hall now) to hoe corn. In the conversation with John Wall the old slave said he'd like to go to Canada to be free. Wall said for him to go if he wanted to. "God bless you, young massa," said the slave, and up the branch in the direction of Uncle Tom Casey's he went. At suppertime Wall reported the absence of the old slave.

In September, 1858, a very exciting event occurred near Dix. Our grandfather used to tell the story, as did most of those who knew of the happening. The state fair was being held in Centralia at that time. Professor Wilson each evening went up in his baloon to the gasping interest of the spectators. Sailing a short distance, he would descend, return to Centralia, and be ready for the next day's performance. On the last evening he sailed toward Jefferson County. Coming down on the farm of Mr. Harvey in Rome (now Dix) neighborhood, he bargained with Mr. Harvey to haul the balloon and its owner back to Centralia; meanwhile he had fastened the grabhook of the balloon to a rail in an

old worn fence. The Harvey's two children, four and six years of age, wanting to see inside the balloon, were placed in the basket by Professor Wilson. A sudden gust of wind swayed the balloon; the rail gave way, and up the balloon went, sailing away to the southwest, leaving behind the frantic parents and the professor. Even though it was almost dark when the balloon escaped its mooring, people immediately searched the area for the children. Just at daybreak Squire Atchison, living in the southern part of Moores Prairie, went to the barn to feed the horses, and seeing something in a tree nearby, raised an alarm. There the children were found still asleep lying in the basket of the balloon. After being thoroughly warmed and fed, the children were brought to Mt. Vernon and then to their parents.

In 1860 an Agricultural Association was organized here in Jefferson County for the purpose of displaying unusual products in the farm world. With some changes, this early association became our fair. The officers of this first association were: J. R. Allen, president; Jeremiah Taylor, secretary; Dr. E. E. Welborn, corresponding secretary; and Joel Pace, treasurer. From A. M. Grant a forty-acre plot of land was bought for the fair grounds for the sum of $800 with 10% interest until paid. This plot with plenty of shade, wood, and water from Casey Creek was in the southeastern part of Mt. Vernon. The first fair, held on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of October, 1860, was well attended and proved quite successful. Because of Civil War excitement, no fair was held in 1862. The association functioned, met and elected officers at regular intervals until May 10, 1879, when agreement was "signed, sealed and delivered" to the Jefferson County Fair Association (a joint-stock company). The fairs continued to be a grand social reunion with people of Mt. Vernon and surrounding counties. In the early 1900's a new fair association was formed by some of the young business men. Since then, the fairs have been held at the extreme southern end of the corporation east of Tenth Street.

Perhaps the greatest disaster to come to Mt. Vernon was the tornado which struck on February 19, 1888, on a Sunday afternoon about dusk, a short time after the dismissal of afternoon church services. The tornado swept over the heaviest populated part -- from the Beal homestead between what is now South Fifteenth and South Seventeenth

near Logan Street to east of the Franklin School -- razing the court house and most of the business section, resulting in thirty being killed, 1250 made homeless, 329 residences either blown away or burned, and 518 buildings being damaged.

Since the Appellate Court Building was not in the path of the storm, it was converted into a hospital and morgue. The Presbyterian Church (across the street to the south of the Appellate Court House) was made a depot of supplies. Dr. Walter Watson was in charge of the hospital, which was maintained and operated for sixty days. Clara Barton personally took charge of the Red Cross relief, which amounted to about $150,000 worth of supplies.

Nashville was the first town to respond to the call for help. It sent men and fire fighting equipment which quickly brought the flames under control. Evansville, Indiana, sent a special train with twenty-nine physicians who worked with our doctors in setting up the Appellate Court Hospital. Centralia also responded with fire fighting equipment manned by thirty-nine men and with four doctors assisting the doctors already here.

Frank Bogan in the February 19, 1925, issue of the Register-News gave these figures in regard to buildings in the immediate path of the storm: 378 one-story frame buildings occupied by 850 persons; 88 two-story frame buildings occupied by 350 persons; 41 two-story brick buildings occupied by 94 persons; 5 one-story brick residences occupied by 19 persons. The total number of buildings damaged or destroyed was 518; the total number of occupants was 1242; 329 buildings were in ruins.

The rebuilding of the devastated area began as soon as possible. Food, clothing, money and everything that was lacking were soon forthcoming, and the pressing needs were relieved.

Our first hospital was the emergency one in the Appellate Court Building to care for those hurt in the 1888 tornado. In 1895, Dr. Frank and Will McClane erected a handsome three-story frame building at the corner of Twentieth and College. Excelsior Sanatarium, as it was called, was the first attempt at a hospital, and yet it was opened only to the patients of the Dr. McClanes. This forty-room hospital specialized in all kinds of baths -- "turkish, Russian, electric,

shower, needle and plunge." The setup was rather elaborate for that time. The advertisement stated that Dr. McClane "has ever had before him the idea of hygiene and hygienic surroundings. He built the structure where sunlight may reign supreme." In spite of its elaborate setup, the hospital failed financially.

The development of hospitals down to the present Good Samaritan, which is partially housed in the more than a hundred-year-old General C. W. Pavey home on North Twelfth Street, might be used as a future topic for discussion. This old home is on the old Lincoln Trail and is the former residence of Joel Pace, Junior, whose father was a Revolutionary War soldier. This house is said by some to be the first brick building in Jefferson County. (EDITORIAL NOTE: This building has since been razed, and the present Good Samaritan Hospital was dedicated in 1952.)

As one stands on the north of Jordan Street looking toward the Master Baking Company building, Swift's building and the high school football field, little does he realize that once these places made up a famous eight to ten-acre park known to Jefferson County as the Greenlawn Springs. The strongest mineral waters of the county were these springs of Dr. William Duff Green. They issued from the side of a shallow ravine, at the same level, a few feet from each other. All contained a considerable quantity of iron combined with other salts; yet no two were quite the same, the difference being in the quantity of the salts. All the springs except one were cool as a deep cellar; this one because of its warmer temperature was called the "Tepid Spring" by Dr. Green. This spring because of its saline character did not freeze in winter. Dr. Green felt that at least three of these springs had a medicinal effect. Diseases that these waters seemed to help were liver and kidney diseases, dyspepsia, rheumatism, and gout. One spring seemed to be very effective in preventing those diseases which children are prone to have during their first and second summers.

On January 1, 1909, the last of the original Jefferson County settlers -- Robert Harlow -- died. He was brought into the county in 1819, an infant of two years. He spent his entire life in East Salem within a radius of two miles of where he died, never appearing in public except to attend the local Baptist church or to vote the

Democratic ticket. He was a good, quiet man, but took little part in county matters. Mr. Harlow is buried at East Salem Cemetery.

The following are brief sketches of information interesting at least to us:

The famous Governor Stinson Anderson's farm east of Mt. Vernon really began east of our present Eighth Street, and in later years became Dr. Green's farm.

The Charlie Poole home on the corner of Eighth and Jordan was built by Thomas Cunningham in the 1840's. (EDITORIAL NOTE: This building on the southwest corner of the street has since been razed.)

The log cabin built by Uncle Jimmy Maxey for his wife was moved from their farm to the lot southwest of the home built by Walter Maxey on the corner of Ninth and Taylor. Later the big home was sold to the Eliots, and now it is owned by Mrs. Grace Hoit. The cabin, camouflaged by green shingles and an addition on the west, still stands on the southwest corner of the lot.

The old building occupied by the Mt. Vernon Milling Company beginning in the 1880's is still standing on South Tenth Street between the Missouri Pacific and the freight tracks of the L & N. During the 1890's the mill's capacity was 150 barrels, with the elevator having a capacity of 25,000 bushels.

John Riley Moss, who was born May 13, 1830, was the first one to introduce Cotswold sheep, Jersey cattle and the Berkshire breed of hogs into Jefferson County. During the Civil War, Captain Moss's duty as Provost Marshall of the 11th District was to take a fort on Skillet Fork River held by a number of disloyal men and to capture all such who were in hiding or in other ways seeking to evade military service. His name became a terror to the disloyal element in his district, for he was very proficient in carrying out his duty.

Amos B. Barrett, who used to live on a big farm near Belle Rive, was one of six men who organized the Republican party in this county in 1856. His father, Thomas Barrett, died in Mt. Vernon in 1850 at the age of 94. Thomas Barrett went through the Revolutionary War as one of George Washington's bodyguards.

According to the records of the D. A. R., which we feel are not complete, the following Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here

in Jefferson County. At Pleasant Grove Cemetery are B. N. Maxey, Joseph McMeen, Peter Owen, Nathaniel Parker, Loyd Ward, Thomas Badgett, Asa Bateman; at Pace is Joel Pace; at Old Union may be found William Tong.

The deadliness of cholera can be seen in the row of graves in the William Frizzell family lot at Old Union, for in 1847 the entire family -- Frizzell, his wife, and their two children--died from cholera.

In 1898 Mt. Vernon had its first woman lawyer, Mrs. Emma Blood, a member of the firm of Blood and Blood.

Dr. John Watson came to Jefferson County in 1821. He was the only physician, but the people were so healthy he had time to assess the county, too, receiving $17 for it. This was about enough money to buy an ounce of quinine.

According to Brinkerhoff's history of Marion County, part of that county was formed in 1823 from the northern part of Jefferson County. Zadok Casey gave the name Marion in honor of the close friend of his father and general in the Revolutionary War -- General Marion.

One of the early records of the Circuit Clerk at the court house is the record of William Maxey's emancipation of his negro slave girl, Eliza, who came with his family from Tennessee. This record is dated February 8, 1830. According to Walter Maxey's history, this was perhaps the first legal emancipation of a slave in the state of Illinois.

Time goes on: and records, sites, events and names of bygone days are fast fading into the realms of the past. We hope that these facts just recorded will help in some small way to perpetuate the story of Jefferson County.

THE CASEY FAMILY

There is no doubt but that the Casey people who were pioneer citizens of the community played one of the most important roles in the founding and developing of Mt. Vernon. The Caseys who came to and settled in this area were from a stock of sturdy people who were not afraid to explore the virgin country and open up new areas of civilization. Several of the ancestors of the Casey family that migrated to the Illinois country participated in the War for Independence

and demonstrated gallantry in action. These people were the descendants of ABNER CASEY who was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, and married a Welsh lady.

Near the middle of the 18th century Abner Casey and his wife decided to come to the "New World" that was talked so much about in Europe. Upon their arrival on the western shores, they settled in Virginia on the Roanoke River near the famous family of Edmund Randolph. Abner and his wife were the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter. The sons were named Moses, Randolph and Levi, but the daughter's name is unknown. Another source states that there was also a son named Benjamin. The first three of Abner Casey's sons served in the Revolution. Moses was a captain, Randolph served as a sergeant, and Levi was first a colonel and later promoted to brigadier general. It has not been found what rank Benjamin held or what military organization he served in.

Randolph Casey, the father of Zadok (whose biography will be found later in detail), was serving under General Francis Marion, "the Swamp Fox of the Santee" at the time that Marion was holding a truce treaty with British officers and invited them to eat with them. The menu consisted of roasted sweet potatoes with nothing else. In making a written report to their commanding officers, the Britishers stated, "Soldiers content to live on such fare can never be defeated."

Abner Casey and family moved to South Carolina about 1763 and settled near Spartanburg; this is the reason for his sons' having service with South Carolina troops instead of Virginia troops. It is believed that Abner passed away between 1790 and 1800. After the fall of Charlestown, the British authorities considered South Carolina as being under British control; but there were still many rebellious ones who stoutly stood out for the American cause. It is reported that some of the well known "rebels," including General Williamson and Colonel Mayson, came to the British camp and sought protection. Levi Casey, along with others, said they would have no part of it, as they were staunch patriots of the American cause and would take the risk.

When Captain Alexander Boyce died, his brother John Boyce joined a militia company that was commanded by Levi Casey and Thomas Dugan. After the famous battle of King's Mountain in which Levi

Casey participated, John Boyce left for home, which was not far from the battle scene and had only been home long enough to greet his family when to his surprise four men appeared at his door. They were headed by William Cunningham and the despised and dreaded Tory, Robert Macomb. John Boyce left quickly on foot, with Cunningham after him. As Cunningham was mounted, he quickly caught up with Boyce before he could get into a thicket that was dense enough to prevent the horse from traveling any farther and struck a blow that severed three of Boyce's fingers. Boyce got away, had his would dressed as soon as possible, then mounted a horse and started on to report the incident to his commander, Lieutenant Levi Casey. This incident stirred the temper of Casey's men to the "boiling point." A small number of "rebel" troops started after the four British criminals and overtook them at the Enoree River. When Casey's men came in contact with the savage Britishers, they paid for their act with the supreme sacrifice. The result was that they became occupants of a grave in mother earth.

General Levi Casey became interested in political activity shortly after the war with Britain had ended. He continued to live in South Carolina, and during the remaining years of his life he held a number of elective offices. In 1783 he was selected to serve on a committee to divide several districts into counties, which included the county of his residence. This county was called Ninety-six; after the dividing of these districts, Casey's home was in Newberry County, South Carolina. An act was passed in 1781 (the year that the war for independence closed) which provided for the appointment of seven justices to hold court in Newberry, and Levi Casey was chosen as one of the first justices under this law. In 1792, he was given the appointment of one of the three county judges for that area. General Casey also assisted in making selection of the location for the court house. The property of John Coate was decided to be the site of the seat of justice.

The popularity of Levi Casey was growing rapidly by this time. In 1793 he was elected State Senator from Newberry County, and nine years later he won a seat in the House of Representatives in Congress. He continued to serve in this capacity from March 4, 1803, until the time of his death on February 1, 1807. It is interesting to

As stated above, Randolph and Mary had one daughter. Her name was Charity Casey. She was born in South Carolina and was married in Tennessee after the family migrated to that state from Georgia.

Samuel Casey was the seventh of Randolph Casey's children. He remained in the south for several years after other members of the family had migrated to Illinois. Samuel came to Jefferson County in 1832, the year Illinois was involved in the Black Hawk War. As we mentioned before, several of Samuel's brothers settled in and around the hamlet of Mt. Vernon; but he settled at the edge of Grand Prarie. He made that locality his home for the remaining eighteen years of his life until his death in 1850.

Zadok Casey, whom history recognizes as one of the "founding fathers" of the King City, was the youngest member of the family of Randolph and Mary Jane Casey. He was born March 7, 1796 in Green County, Georgia, and was married prior to his coming to the Prairie State. A more detailed biographical sketch of his life will be found later.

The following list brings together the names of the children of Randolph and Mary Jane (Pennington) Casey and the names of their spouses: Levi, born about 1768, married Mollie Sherrel; Randolph, Jr., born 1769, married Sallie Perkins; Isaac, born 1770, first married Elizabeth McKay and later Jennie Bullock; Abraham, born 1772, married Nancy Baker; Charity, date of birth unknown, married William DePriest; Hiram, born 1790, married Catherine DePriest (It is not now known whether or not William DePriest and Catherine DePriest were relatives); Samuel, born 1793, married Ruth Gilbert; and Zadok, born 1796, married Rachel King.

William Casey was the eldest son of Isaac Casey and a nephew of Zadok Casey. He came to Jefferson County in 1817, the same year that his uncle Zadok established residence in the area. William lived in Jefferson County for about twenty years, then decided to move to the northern part of the state. Chicago was a small village when William made his journey northward. After living in the north part of the new state for a year or two, he decided that he would prefer to come back and spend the remainder of his life in the community that he assisted in developing. He decided to watch the little hamlet grow

and prosper, realizing that he played a prominent part in giving birth to a new locality. As stated elsewhere, William Casey granted twenty acres of land to the new county for the purpose of establishing the permanent seat of justice. This twenty-acre tract included what is now the county court yard in Mt. Vernon and the downtown business district. William is reported to have accumulated a considerable amount of wealth during his lifetime.

Abraham T. Casey, a brother of William, was a minister but it is not known what religious faith he represented. He was married to Vylinda Maxey the year that the county was organized. Abraham and his wife had their home on what was later called Salem Road. He preached at many places in all directions from Mt. Vernon. He passed away in 1834.

Thomas M. Casey "first saw the light of the world" in 1801 in the border state of Kentucky. He arrived in Jefferson County, Illinois, with his parents in 1817. Two years later he was married to Harriet Maxey in October, 1819. The Maxey family also played a very active part in the development of the new community of Mt. Vernon. Thomas Casey was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Abraham P. Casey, son of Randolph, Sr., was born in South Carolina and came to Jefferson County in 1818. He lived in the Mt. Vernon area only a few years, then moved to the community that was known as Grand Prairie, where he built the first dwelling house in that area. He later decided to return to the Mt. Vernon community. It is reported that he did not like to live in one locality very long and that he moved several times. Later in life he moved to Missouri and remained there until his death in the early 1840's. His wife lived until a few months after the close of the Civil War. Abraham P. Casey was the father of five sons and two daughters: John C., Green P., Franklin S., Isaac, Clarissa and Elizabeth.

Franklin S. Casey married Rhoda Taylor. He was a very aggressive man and was interested in business and politics. He was a participant in the Black Hawk War in which he was commissioned first lieutenant in Captain Bowman's company. This was the only war that Abraham Lincoln had military service in, and it seems possible that Lieutenant Casey and Lincoln knew each other. Franklin served a number

of terms as county judge. He also had the honor of being a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1848. This latter assignment may have been the greatest achievement of his life. He died in 1871.

Zadok Casey

A name that has been written immortally on the pages of Mt. Vernon history is that of Zadok Casey. His activity in public life, both as a clergyman and as a statesman, was a priceless contribution to the welfare of this community. He is credited with helping to make Mt. Vernon one of the leading cities of "Little Egypt." Reverend Casey was not contented with the life of a private citizen. It was his aim and ambition to engage in the kind of life that would shape and mold a better civilization for posterity. His sterling qualities were no doubt at least partly attributable to his upbringing and his heritage.

As stated before, he descended from a family of sturdy pioneers of Irish-Welsh immigrants. He was the son of Randolph Casey, a veteran of the War for Independence. He was a nephew of General Levi Casey who played a prominent part in driving the "red coats" from American soil. Zadok was the youngest child of Randolph and Mary Jane (Pennington) Casey. All of the children except Zadok were born in South Carolina. The family moved to Georgia about 1795, and Zadok was born on March 7, 1796, in Green County, Georgia.

In 1803, Randolph Casey moved his family from their Georgia home to Smith County, Tennessee, where he died in 1813. Zadok was seventeen years of age at the time of his father's death and was already thinking of following some of his older brothers who had come to the Illinois Territory by that time. He was a firm believer in christianity and was a follower of the Methodist faith. Early in life he was authorized by the Methodist Church to serve that faith as a clergyman, and began his ministerial work while residing in Tennessee.

Shortly after his twentieth birthday, Zadok married Rachel King in Tennessee. Zadok and Rachel started their journey to Illinois in 1817, when he was twenty-one years of age. The trip was slow and hazardous, as the country was full of Indians and wild animals. It is reported that they brought all of their physical goods on a horse; these consisted of a skillet, rifle, a few cooking utensils and their

clothing. His wife rode the horse and Zadok walked and let the horse, carrying the rifle.

Their place of arrival was not far from the original Shiloh Methodist Church, which was located a few miles northwest of where Mt. Vernon was to be built. After arriving safely at their destination they camped for the night, and while Rachel was preparing the evening meal, Zadok, who was a firm believer in prayer and divine guidance, knelt beside a tree and offered prayer and thanksgiving for the safe journey that they had experienced from the south land.

When Zadok Casey came to the midwest, he came to stay. He was of the type of personality that was aggressive and made fast advancement. No sooner had he arrived at his destination than he began the construction of a dwelling for his family. This was, of course, constructed of logs, as there was no sawed lumber to be had.

As he was an authorized minister prior to his leaving Tennessee, it was his desire to continue the practice of his profession in the new locality. There were no organized churches in the vicinity when he came here, but this did not prevent him from proclaiming the Gospel to the people at every opportunity. He delivered sermons to groups at religious services for miles around when the worship services were held in homes. After Methodist churches were built in this area, he was called upon to preach to local groups in all directions. Rev. Casey was one of the best known men in the Mt. Vernon area during the period of its development.

In addition to being a clergyman, he took an active interest in political life. The legislature had been moved from its original location at Kaskaskia to Vandalia. For a number of years the members of the General Assembly were elected to represent the county of their residence. Within three years after moving to Illinois, Zadok Casey decided to enter the race for a seat in the legislature. His opponent was a Dr. McLean from White County, and Casey was defeated in this campaign. Though he was young, and many young men would have been so discouraged from the defeat that they would have given up a political career, Casey was determined to hold up his courage and try it again. Two years later (1822) he was a candidate for the same office against the same candidate, and by this time his popularity and influence had

increased materially with the voters, so that he was elected. At the end of the two-year term he sought the office as an incumbent and won. He served in the lower house of the legislature for two consecutive terms. He served Jefferson County for four full years in the House of Representatives.

In 1826 Mr. Casey entered the race for the State Senate and won. He served in this capacity until 1830, then decided to file his name in the race for Lieutenant Governor, which he won. John Reynolds was the governor during this period. Zadok Casey did not finish his term as lieutenant governor, as he entered the congressional race in the fall of 1832.

The Black Hawk War had its beginning in the spring of 1831, and it was thought that this conflict would be finished in a few months. The Indian chief, Black Hawk, decided to try to drive the white settlers out of their territory the following year, and hostilities were resumed. Governor Reynolds called for troops from this state to suppress the Indians and was given a quick response. Companies of troops were organized from different parts of the state, including Jefferson County. Records prepared by several sources indicate that Zadok Casey decided to join a company of soldkers that were organized in Mt. Vernon in the spring of 1832. It is not shown whether or not he resigned as lieutenant governor prior to joining the military company. The conflict was of short duration, as the Indians surrendered on August 2, 1832.

As stated above, Casey was a candidate for Congress in 1832 and was elected. In 1833 he was sworn in, and he served continuously for the next ten years as a member of Congress from this area. Casey was defeated in 1842 in the congressional race and returned to private life in the Mt. Vernon area for the next five years.

In 1847, Zadok Casey was elected to the Constituional Convention. It is reported that he wielded a large influence in causing the Supreme Court to be located in the King City.

In 1852 he entered the political arena again, as he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly. He was a state senator at the time of his death.

Zadok Casey is credited with being one of the principal founders of Mt. Vernon. The public service that he rendered to the county and to the state bears this out. Many have said that he was a

"born leader" among men. While he was serving in the legislature there were times when discussions arose that caused considerable discussion so that the speaker of the house would quite often say, "We will leave this question to the gentleman from Jefferson County for an opinion." His opinions on legislative matters were respected by a great many of his colleagues. Members of Congress from the various states soon learned that Governor Casey from Illinois, as he was called, possessed sound judgment in the enactment of federal legislation.

While Zadok Casey aspired to elective office and possessed the ability for that vocation, he nevertheless continued the practice of the profession to which he had been summoned in early life. His belief in Christianity was so strong that he continued his work as a minister until the time of his death. Beyond any doubt the life that Zadok Casey lived and the contributions that he made helped to mold Mt. Vernon in being one of the most civilized and progressive communities in Southern Illinois. It can rightfully be said that Zadok Casey lived a full and distinguished life.

His colorful career came to a close during the Civil War, as he passed away on September 4, 1862. He died at Caseyville, Illinois, and the remains were brought to Mt. Vernon and buried in Old Union Cemetery. His wife died January 26, 1868, and she was buried close by her husband's grave.

Zadok and Rachel Casey were the parents of eight children: Mahala, Mary Jane, Samuel K., Hiram R., Alice, Newton R., Thomas S. and John R. Casey. Newton and John were practicing physicians and Thomas served as a judge on the judicial circuit in this area.

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The Casey family have played a very important role in the founding and developing of Mt. Vernon, and we regret that space does not permit mentioning all of the people who descend from this pioneering family.

FIRST SETTLER IN CASNER TOWNSHIP

The really first settler in Casner Township was my grandfather, George Casner. He was born in 1796 and passed away in his

eighty-third year in 1879. He was married three times. Of his first wife, I have no history other than the location of her grave. This is also true of his second wife. His third wife was my grandmother, born Catherine Lewis Gilbreth, from Wales. To this third marriage were born two daughters, the younger of whom was my mother.

There were three children of the first marriage and ten of the second marriage. All of these children have passed away, but there are four granddaughters and one grandson living at present, and many descendants.

He had four sons in the Civil War: John, Andy or Andrew, Steve and George. Two sons went out to the gold rush in those days but returned.

George Casner and sons built the first log school house on his land; this building burned. Then the school was built about a mile north of the home place; from there the location was moved to the present old school, Casner School.

He was a farmer and carpenter. He made coffins up to the time of his death.

Another thing my mother told me, he gave money as well as land for the L & N Railroad. Before that, about twice a year he made the trip to St. Louis with oxen for supplies or necessities.

He was born in Virginia, passed away on the home site. He and his three wives are buried on a little knoll just beside the L & N Railroad. He was said to have been half Indian.

My father, John H. Randolph, bought out the heirs of the Casner estate. I was born in the first frame house built in Casner Township, the house George Casner built.

In 1902 my father sold the homestead to Frank Rensky. Frank Rensky's son Louis now owns the farm. The house he built stands where the old barn was, a beautiful pond lies near where the old house was.

This is the history mother and her one sister handed down to me.

--By E. Catherine Randolph Pruno
Woodlawn, Illinois

L. A. DEARINGER CONTRIBUTES:

"Jefferson County in the Nineteenth Century"

When we read about the past it is hard to accept those personalities about whom we read as being real people, such as those we meet every day. We are quite sure, for instance, that we never knew an Aunt Becky Depriest, who weighed some 345 pounds and who always wore a "stovepipe" hat. Neither have we known a Jesse Green, from Long Prairie, who was called Jesse Button to distinguish him from his son who was called Jesse Purpose, and who would amuse folks on public days by dancing on the grass in his moccasins with "so much agility." Peculiar people? But of course. Shall we not seem peculiar to those readers of our history a century hence? People are products of their times. By our deeds and actions we identify the period in which we live. Consequently, from these tales and legends about the Aunt Becky Depriests, the Jesse Buttons, and the others whom we shall meet, we should better understand what it was to live in Jefferson County during the Nineteenth Century. This, then, is the purpose of our contribution to this volume.

Some of these sketches have been passed along by friends who knew of our interest in such things. And many have been adapted from "Recollections of Jefferson County and Its People," a series of articles by Adam Clark Johnson, which appeared in the old Mt. Vernon Free Press around 1882.

* * * * *

According to Johnson, there never was a frontier just like Southern Illinois. There were few Indians, and these were peaceful. The wild beasts were not very wild or numerous. In this pocket between the great rivers was a fresh, fertile and safe domain of about twelve thousand square miles, barely accessible to the outside world. Destined to an exceedingly slow development, it was much longer in becoming materially better.

Clothes worn into Jefferson County soon wore out. It was then necessary to resort to buckskins, which were too long when wet and too short when dry, or to homespun. Dyes from homespun were made

from copperas, a mineral taken from the bluffs not far from the site of Jefferson City, which was on the Richview Road, north of Woodlawn. A red rock -- evidentally a soft, red stone, used by Indians -- was utilized as a stone dye. Then, too, people raised indigo. The liquid used to "set" the blue dye was attractive to insects. It was most provoking, so we are told, to be decked out in one's Sunday best and be surrounded wherever one went by a swarm of buffalo gnats.

When hats wore out, winter caps of skin might be used, which often were of the most fantastic shape. Summer hats were of straw, home-made, the straw being bleached with sulphur smoke. Governor Zadok Casey, after he had been to Congress, wore on Sundays a straw hat made by Mrs. Anna Moss.

* * * * *

The first white man to settle in Jefferson County, Andrew Moore, gave his name to the area where he settled -- Moore's Prairie. One day Moore and his young son rode down to Jordan's Mill, in Franklin County, after meal and never returned. Some six years later a human skull was found stuck upon a snag of an elm tree within two miles of the Moore place. Recognizing the evidence of a missing tooth, Mrs. Moore identified the skull as that of her missing husband. She took the ghastly relic home, kept it in her trunk and had it placed in her coffin when she died. It was presumed that Indians had committed the murder of the father and had taken the child with them.

It was said that Billy Casey and Issac Hicks were the only pioneers who brought any surplus money with them. Much of the land entered by the early settlers was entered with money borrowed from one of these two. It was believed that Billy Casey had a considerable sum buried away at the time of his death, "which would never be found unless by accident." Apparently there is still an accident around, waiting to happen.

Another pioneer was Roaring Billy Woods, who got his name from the peculiar way of halloing when intoxicated. Alfred, a brother of Roaring Billy, was killed in 1828 by a falling bee tree. He was brought to Old Union for burial, but the creek (Casey Fork?) was so high that it was necessary to build a raft so the little procession could cross.

It seems that getting married was an exciting event in the Woods family. Mrs. Alfred Woods bitterly opposed the marriage of her daughter Nancy to Bill Dodds. Learning that the two had gone over to John Dodds to be married, she seized a large butcher knife and set out on foot at full speed to have her way, or to have blood, preferably that of Bill Dodds. She reached the Dodds home, but too late. Easily overpowered, she soon accepted the inevitable.

Anderson Woods and Martha Norton also had parental opposition from Jacob, Martha's father. However, Jacob's opposition was vetoed by unanimous decision of the young couple. One day Martha was at the gap, milking; Anderson rode up, Martha jumped up behind him and away they went, with reconciliation following in due time.

We have mentioned Aunt Becky Depriest. One of her sons, Green, had a curious courtship. Starting to Walnut Hill for a little spree, he stopped on the way at the house of a widow Allen to make some inquiries. The daughter joined in the conversation, and Green fancied her appearance. He told her who he was and also told her that he would like to marry her, if agreeable. Well, she said, she did not care. So Green Depriest took a wife, bringing her home the next day, to the astonishment of his friends and neighbors. The choice, according to Johnson, proved an excellent one for Green Depriest.

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Elsewhere it will be recorded that in 1830-31 the first school in Jefferson County seems to have been held in Shiloh Township, the building being of logs. In 1838-39 school was held in Mt. Vernon in the Methodist parsonage, which then was in the edge of a woods. Occasionally snakes would invade the schoolroom, thus creating considerable excitement among the pupils and teachers.

The Mt. Nebo School was located where Richview Road crosses Betty Dugan Creek. Mary A. Casey was the teacher, beginning her career at the age of fourteen and teaching for fifty-seven years. Sometime prior to 1845 the decapitated body of an unknown traveller was found in the area. One day a resident, John Payne, met the ghost of this unfortunate stranger; and for years following Payne's experience Miss Casey would dismiss school early on the short winter days, so

the children could get home safely before dusk, when the ghost took his walk.

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With meat prices the way they are, it might be interesting to mention an early settler by the name of Bob Holt who was several times indicted for stealing hogs and who shocked the moral sensibilities of the public by confessing that he had stolen hogs, but not the ones charged, and that he would steal hogs whenever he wanted to. This, Johnson tells us, did not then look as bad as it would now, because hogs were of no great value and ran half wild and chiefly took care of themselves.

* * * * *

The McKinley-Bryan campaign of 1896 was a hot issue in Jefferson County. Although women then were denied the vote, nevertheless they formed and staunchly stood for their own political opinions.

Attending a Bryan rally in Mt. Vernon were a Horse Creek family, James and Mallie Warren and their two boys, Clyde, who was three or four, and Hill, under two. Politically, the family was divided, James being a Democrat and Mallie a Republican, a very strong Republican, as we shall see.

As soon as the Warrens arrived in town father James bought a Bryan cap for son Clyde. Mother Mallie immediately bought a Republican cap for baby Hill. The rally was long, the day was warm, and the baby got tired and had to be carried. However, papa Warren would not carry the baby as long as he wore the Republican cap, and mother Mallie would not remove the headgear as long as son Clyde wore the Democratic cap. Neither would give in, so Mrs. Warren carried the baby the entire day, the baby getting heavier by the hour. Presumably, the experience did not soften mother Mallie's feelings toward the Democratic Party.

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No anthology such as this would be complete without a bit of early superstition -- or is "folk lore" a better term? This has to do with a Hoop Snake which, as every one knows, is able to grasp its tail in its mouth and roll merrily from hither to yon. The bite of

the Hoop Snake is venomous. There is a venomous stinger at the tip of its tail. Furthermore, it seems that Hoop Snake bodies exhude a venomous substance. Of course, science doesn't support such reports, but who in the world would ever think of accepting science as against the voices of experience? In such stories, however, the ordeal always was experienced by another, preferably a relative.

This tale was related by Dr. R. B. Guthrie, Pastor Emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Vernon, who got the story from a sick patient. Presumably the event happened in Jefferson County.

According to the sick patient, an aunt -- a young girl in her early teens -- was picking blackberries along a pasture lane, which had a considerable grade. Hearing a noise the aunt looked up, and one can imagine her horror at seeing a gigantic Hoop Snake rolling down the path at a terrific speed directly towards her. The aunt dodged behind a tree, and just barely in time. So close was the reptillian hot-rod that it scraped some bark from the tree as it flashed by and tore an exposed corner from her skirt.

Now, in those days teen-age daughters did their own mending, reptile or no reptile, so the auntie proceeded to repair the damage caused by the Hoop Snake. After sewing on the patch the aunt discovered that she had no scissors with her, so she bit the thread in two. Within ten minutes she was dead, the poison was so potent. And because the snake had scraped against the tree trunk, neither did the tree escape the effects of the poison -- it failed to leaf out the following spring, and by midsummer was quite dead.

* * * * *

Not only were the ways of these pioneer settlers not our ways, but the descriptive terms they used are also strange. In Johnson's "Recollections" we find such terms as "skelped down," "buttin-poles," "weight poles," "knees," "sarched meal," "firmity," and "metheglin," which last seemed to be a home-made drink made with honeycomb. If such terms are unfamiliar to us, it can be expected that those pioneers might have trouble with "video," "rock and roll" and other such expressions, could they be suddenly introduced to our times. However, many terms would be mutually understood -- when those

men, for instance, spoke of a "well-built filly" we know that they weren't always talking about a horse.

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A majority of the people kept Sunday as a day of worship and of sacred rest. For want of a church the men would preach at private homes. However, in a new settlement, churches were among the first public buildings to be built. At the time of this writing (1962) the Mt. Olive Church, built of logs in 1840 and located southeast of Bluford, is the oldest church structure in Jefferson County.

Johnson's description of a typical "going to church" is repeated verbatim:

"See them come in. Here comes a family in a home-made cart, with wheels sawed out of a big log, and drawn by a yoke of cattle. Here comes a younger man on horseback, with his wife behind him. Here comes another, walking with the larger children, while his wife rides with a child behind her, and one in her lap. But most of them come on foot, "in twos and threes and fours," chatting along the path together. Their clothes are clean, white, yellow, red, blue, brown, or check, all clean; their shoes, if they have any, cleaned up and greased; the women in their sunbonnets and the men in their newest straw hats; all in good shape. The preacher stands.....preaches long and loud, and the brethren cry "amen," the women shout, and all go home happy."

-- L. A. Dearinger

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

On July 25, 1918, a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. William T. Pace to organize a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. Pace had been appointed Organizing Regent by the President General of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, whose headquarters are at Washington, D. C.

Then, as today, only direct descendants of Revolutionary soldiers or those whose ancestors gave material aid to the colonies were eligible for membership in the D. A. R. To perpetuate the memory and the spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence, thirty-five women signed for membership; thirteen were resident members; twenty-two were non-resident members. This group of thirty-five women represented the branches of eight Revolutionary families.

At the organizational meeting officers were selected and committees appointed. Of the thirty-five charter members, three still hold membership in Joel Pace Chapter: Miss Mabel Pavey, whose mother, Isabella Pace Pavey, was a grand-daughter of Joel Pace; Mrs. Alice K. Cummings, the first treasurer of the chapter; and Miss Nell Jane Kell, who was registrar of the chapter for many years.

The chapter organized in 1918 was named Joel Pace Chapter for Joel Pace, Sr., head of one of Jefferson County's best known families. He enlisted in the Continental Army in Henry County, Virginia, in March 1779, and served eighteen months. His ancestors were instrumental in saving Jamestown and many of the colonists from the massacre of 1622. Joel's grandfather, Richard Pace, had befriended an Indian who, in turn, informed his pale-face friend of the Indians' impending attack and enabled scores of colonists to flee to the stockade before the redmen came on the pitiful band of settlers.

Joel Pace, Sr., came to Jefferson County to join the family of his son, Joel Pace, Jr. The senior Pace died in 1831 and is buried in Pace Cemetery near Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

We know of two other Revolutionary soldiers who are buried in Jefferson County: William Tong, buried at Old Union Cemetery; and Peter Owen, buried at Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Joel Pace Chapter had had the graves of these soldiers marked and kept in good condition.

Among the many other activities of Joel Pace Chapter was the dedication of a bronze tablet to the memory of Abraham Lincoln on November 22, 1923. Appropriate ceremonies preceded the placing of this permanent historical marker on a building on North Tenth Street in Mt. Vernon. This bronze plate marks the spot where an address was given by Abraham Lincoln.

The work of the Daughters of the American Revolution includes that of patriotic education, historical research, the preventing of desecration of the flag, the creation of an interest for and a respect of the flag, conservation of good roads and old trails, Americanization, and international relations.

--Nell J. Kell

MACALLEN DINWIDDIE

Macallen Dinwiddie was born in slavery on December 4, 1846, in Missouri. His father had come from Africa and was in slavery all of his life in America and possibly before he was brought to America. Young Macallen Dinwiddie spent the first years of his life in Missouri, where he was owned by a family named Carter who lived in Ironton, Missouri.

Very soon after the Civil War was over, Macallen Dinwiddie and his brothers were taken to a place in Texas to be held as slaves. Their father was left in Ironton, Missouri, and the Dinwiddie brothers did not yet know that the war was over when they were taken to Texas. It is not now known whether or not Mr. Carter had planned to sell or trade the brothers, or whether he intended to keep them for himself.

The brothers were contacted by a friend of theirs in a short time after their arrival in Texas and were informed for the first time that the war had ended and that they were free. No one now can truly realize what a thrill it was for the Dinwiddie boys to learn that for the first time in their entire lives they had the freedom which white people had always taken for granted. Our country is still struggling to perfect this freedom for all men, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities which go with it, and we have need of much further progress; but what a comfort it must have been to these young men to know that they were no longer the property of another and that henceforth they would be responsible only to themselves and to God. They joyfully returned to their home in Ironton, Missouri.

Macallen Dinwiddie was not yet nineteen years of age when War Between the States came to an end. He remained in Missouri for some time, was married there and had one child prior to coming to Illinois. He was married to Ellen Russell in Ironton, Missouri, about the year 1875.

Mr. Dinwiddie spent his entire life as a farmer. He came to Jefferson County, Illinois prior to 1900, but the exact year is unknown. He first settled on a farm south of Woodlawn where he spent a few years. Then he purchased a farm in Section Two of Shiloh Township where he remained until his death. His daughter, Mrs. Harry Young, and her husband now live on this same farm.

Macallen Dinwiddie truly saw slavery in its fullest, but his life was an outstanding demonstration that he was worthy of the freedom he had received. He departed this life on August 1, 1909, and his body lies buried in the I. O. O. F. Cemetery, Woodlawn, Illinois.

(Information on the life of Mr. Dinwiddie was furnished by his daughter, Mrs. Harry Young, Woodlawn, Illinois.)

COUNTY PERSONALITIES

(Taken from articles written in the Mt. Vernon Register-News by L. A. Dearinger)

Up in Rome Township, about two miles beyond Graze Point, was Budtown. At one time this early trading center could boast of a store, a grist mill, and a blacksmith shop. The smithy was an accomplished worker in iron; one, it seemed, who could repair or make just about every tool or implement used on a farm.

Many men of today have hobbies -- fishing, playing golf, photography, writing. Hobbies are not new, are not necessarily the result of increased leisure. Our smithy at Budtown had a hobby. In his spare time he liked to make dies, or molds, which when filled with molten lead produced half-dollars having a remarkable resemblance to the legal coins used at the time. These spurious coins were passed to patrons in the course of making change. Passing these coins quickly brought the blacksmith an invitation to an extended sojourn in the Federal Rest Home at Leavenworth, Kansas. While a guest of the government our smith met other unlucky counterfeiters, from whom he learned some of the finer points of die making. Upon his release from prison our blacksmith soon discovered that he still had much to learn about making dies, so back again to Leavenworth. After his second incarceration nothing more is heard about Jefferson County's counterfeiter. Which, perhaps, is just as well. The public has little interest in the unsuccessful, especially unsuccessful counterfeiters.

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One of the victims of the Budtown counterfeiter was one Newt Brown, grandfather of Newt Brown, Mt. Vernon druggist. Newt Brown,

the grandfather, not the druggist, was one of a family of seven boys and four girls. Grandfather Brown became a farmer and a preacher. It has been claimed that Preacher Brown was well able to cope with sin and sinners, anywhere he found either.

One day Parson Brown bought a mule, a very stubborn, cantankerous mule, the handling of which challenged to the utmost the parson's ability to cope. Preachers, as everyone knows, are even-tempered, mild of speech, and kind to men and beasts. And the mule never was born which wouldn't take advantage of such a situation. One day it happened. Filled with the impatience of Job -- Job, it must be known, was the most impatient of men -- with his bare fist Preacher Brown smote the mule mightily upon its nose. It has been related that the parson suffered no injury from such a blow, but the mule carried throughout its muleish career a sizeable lump as a memento of the occasion. As Preacher Brown's remarks were not reported, about the only observation left is that mules apparently are no respecters of parsons.

According to Newt Brown, the dunggist, not the grandfather, Newt Brown, the grandfather, not the druggist, stood six feet three and was well-built. Yet, he was the runt among the brothers. What a basketball team those seven Brown brothers would have been! Unfortunately, basketball had not then been invented.

* * * *

Jesse A. Dees when a boy originated the old Nashville road. He and some friends were camped out on the West Fork (of the Muddy?) when a man came along and asked one of them to pilot him across the country in the direction of the Beaucoup settlement. Jesse undertook the job, and the trail which they made was followed by others and soon became a path. When the road was located it followed this path from the creek to the county line. Then the other county took it up and followed it on to Beaucoup. The present hard road to Nashville follows this old road in many places.

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN MT. VERNON

Mt. Vernon Township High School is the successor of the old Mt. Vernon City High School, which graduated its first class in 1884. In 1883 the Exponent, a Mt. Vernon newspaper, reported that the city

had nine teachers, eight of whom were teaching the lower grades and one the high school.

An alumni record of 1906 lists J. L. Frohock as superintendent and the following as members of the Class of 1884: Grace Plummer, Mary Gowenlock, Mollie Hawkins, Kate Yost, Lillian Johnson, Mamie Hayes, Clarence Lyon, Nellie Klinker, Etta Crowder, Amy Downer, Emma Hoffman, Viola Sturgiss, Minnie Keller, and Mary Parrish. Other superintendents during the years 1883 to 1905 were W. C. Barnhart, S. P. McRea, John B. Nichols, A. O. Reubelt, J. T. Ellis, H. J. Alvis, and E. E. Van Cleve.

The city high school was located at Sixth and Harrison Streets, in the Franklin School building which had been constructed in 1867. Schools were disrupted by the cyclone of 1888 which destroyed the Franklin School, and Oscar O. Stitch was the lone member of the Class of 1888. There were no graduates in 1889. After the cyclone the Franklin School was rebuilt and the high school was conducted there until June, 1905.

The curriculum of the old Mt. Vernon High School stressed the academic subjects and gave prominence to Latin, German and the classics. Commencements were elaborate with each member of the class being required to give an oration. The latter custom was modified in 1900 when only the valedictorian, the salutatorian, and four others gave orations. Beginning in 1889 students of the school published a monthly magazine called The Rostra which contained stories, essays, poems, and school news. Sports were not stressed, but there was some competition with other schools in track and baseball and during the later years in football. In 1900 Mt. Vernon joined the Southern Illinois Oratorical and Athletic Association. The other schools in the association were DuQuoin, Benton, McLeansboro, Fairfield and Flora. In 1900 contests were held in Mt. Vernon with Mt. Vernon taking first in intellectual events but fourth in athletics.

In May, 1905, the Mt. Vernon City High School came to an end, being replaced by the newly-organized Mt. Vernon Township High School. In the period 1884 to 1905 the old school had graduated 188 students. Among its graduates were numerous businessmen, teachers, college professors, ministers, lawyers, and other professional men and women.

In September, 1905, the Mt. Vernon Township High School replaced the old city high school. The territory included not only the city of Mt. Vernon but the entire Mt. Vernon Township. It has a separate board of education and is not a part of the Mt. Vernon city school system.

In 1903 the people of the township had voted to establish a township high school and elected a board of education, but because of some technicality the proceedings were declared illegal, and a new start was made in 1904. On the board elected in 1904 were Frank Snyder, president, J. H. Mitchell, J. O. Harlow, F. J. Cochran, and W. W. Price.

This board purchased a site at Seventh Street and Casey Avenue. The first building, now known as Building B, was begun in September, 1904, completed in July, 1905, and dedicated on August 15, 1905. Its cost was about $40,300.

The school opened September 1, 1905, with James M. Dickson as principal and a staff of six teachers. The first teachers were Renzo Muckelroy, Miss Lillian Barton, Miss Ida Bond, Silas Echols, Miss Lily Gubelman and Miss Mary Maxwell. The enrollment for the first year was 160 -- 70 boys and 90 girls.

In the beginning the curriculum included academic and science courses, the only exceptions being stenography, typewriting, manual training and drawing. The Class of 1906, the first class to graduate from the new school, had only thirteen members. Graduates of this class were Alice Blackburn, George Collins, Doris Damon, Carl Hayse, Ellen Hinckley, Georgia Howard, Ray Livingston, Edna Price, Rex Robon, Edith Taylor, Alabama Turnley, Ben Ward, and Cecil Willis.

Upon the retirement of Mr. Dickson in 1915, Silas Echols became the second principal. He had been a teacher in the school since its beginning in 1905. In 1915 the enrollment had grown to 260, and there were 36 graduates in the Class of 1916.

Enrollment declined slightly in 1917 and 1918 during World War One, in which 110 graduates or former students served in the armed forces.

Increased enrollment after the war led to the addition of a second building to the school plant. The first building, which some

people had said was much too large and would never be filled, had become inadequate. The second building located at the southeast corner of Sixth Street and Casey Avenue was completed in 1921 and is now known as Building C. The football field known as Vernois Field was built and dedicated in 1933.

By 1935 the enrollment had grown to 503, and three new buildings -- an auditorium, a gymnasium, and an additional classroom building -- were begun. These were built as a W. P. A. project and were put into use in 1936 and 1937.

When the United States entered World War Two, the high school did much to further the war effort. It participated in many patriotic activities and sold thousands of dollars worth of bonds and stamps. School shops were expanded and equipped with machines and equipment from the old NYA buildings, and adult courses were organized to train machinists, welders, and blue print readers, who were much in demand. To supplement the food supply the school operated a summer cannery at the NYA camp. The output of this was more than 75,000 cans per year.

The honor roll of former students who served in World War Two contains more than 500 names. Of these, 65 were killed or died in service.

In 1947 Mr. Echols retired. He had served ten years as a teacher in the schools and thirty-two years as its principal. During these forty-two years he had seen the school grow in enrollment from 160 to 1300. The faculty had increased from six to forty-eight. The school plant had grown from one building to five with a replacement value of $900,000. Bonds to the amount of $250,000 had been voted and plans made for a new vocational building, but because of the war this was not begun until 1949.

The curriculum had been broadened to include many vocational and cultural courses, such as industrial arts, agriculture, homemaking, business education, art and music. In vocational training, four three-hour vocational courses in drafting, machine shop, electricity, and auto shop had been added.

Robert L. McConnell succeeded Mr. Echols as principal. Before coming to Mt. Vernon he had served as principal at Anna-Jonesboro and Harrisburg.

During his administration a new three-hour course in building trades was added, and the students began the project of building a modern home each year or each two years. Additional funds were voted for the new vocational building which brought the total up to $550,000. The building was erected in 1949 and 1950. New territory was taken into the district and its area eventually grew from thirty-six square miles to 272 square miles, so that it became necessary to use several buses to transport the students.

With the resignation of Mr. McConnell in June, 1950, Arthur Milward became the fourth principal or superintendent, as the chief administrator is now called. He had formerly served nine years as teacher and dean of boys in the school and came back to Mt. Vernon from Chebanse, Illinois, where he had been superintendent.

Three on-the-job training programs were added to the curriculum — office occupations, distributive education, and diversified occupations. In office occupations students acquire skills and procedures in morning classes at school and spend the afternoon working in uptown offices under the supervision of their employer and the high school coordinator. In the other courses the same procedure is followed except that the students work in stores or in factories and shops.

The new vocational building was put into use in September, 1950, and with the added facilities Mt. Vernon Township High School became one of the outstanding high schools in the state for vocational training.

On October 21-22, 1955, the school celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a series of class reunions and other events which ended with a banquet attended by more than 450 graduates and friends of the school. At this banquet Mr. Echols was especially honored and contributions made to a scholarship fund to be called the Silas Echols Scholarship Fund.

On October 29, 1955, the voters of the district authorized the establishment of a junior college. The school name now became Mt. Vernon Township High School and Community College.

College work began in 1956 with 116 enrolled in day classes and 79 in night classes. Some college classes meet in the high school buildings and some in a remodeled apartment building across the street

from the high school campus. In 1961 an additional dwelling was acquired for a temporary college office.

The college has maintained the standards and criteria of the Illinois State Department of Education and of the University of Illinois and receives full recognition from each. Before the college opened about 22 per cent of the local high school graduates went on to college; now about 50 per cent enroll.

Dr. Milward, who had attained his doctor's degree in 1960, resigned in June, 1961, having served as superintendent for eleven years. He was succeeded by Eltis Henson, who had previously been superintendent of Harrisburg Township High School. Under the administration of Mr. Henson the school is continuing its growth and progress.

In September, 1961, a school of practical nursing for adults was added to the Vocational Department of the college. It offers a one-year course and enables adults to meet the requirements for licenses as practical nurses. It is housed in a remodeled residence at Sixth Street and Casey Avenue.

In 1962 the people of the district voted bonds to the amount of $993,000 to build a new classroom building, to remodel Building B, to provide a new heating plant, and to modernize other buildings. The new building is to be completed in 1963.

The school is well represented in organizations and activities. Representing the views of the students is the Student Council, organized in 1919. It is now made up of a boy and a girl elected by each class and a boy and a girl from the senior class elected from the school at large. This council is the guiding organization of all student organizations.

The Hi-Tri League, a character training organization for girls originated in Mt. Vernon Township High School in 1925. It was organized by Miss Cornelia Pierce, the first dean of girls. It is a chartered organization and has become state-wide.

It is one of the two schools in the state to win four state championships in basketball. Championships were won in 1920, 1949, 1950 and 1954. In the earlier days of the school when debating was in vogue, the debating teams won many victories including three southern

Illinois championships. In later years school musicians have won many honors. These include State Music Sweepstakes Championships in 1949, 1951, 1956, 1957, 1961, and 1962.

The Vernois, school yearbook, and the Vernois News, the student newspaper, have maintained high standards. The Vernois News won NSPA All-American ratings for seven years, 1947-1954, and again in 1956. It was also CSPA Medalist in 1948 and 1949.

During the fifty-seven years of its history, Mt. Vernon Township High School and Community College's enrollment has grown from 160 to 1635 in the high school and from 195 in the college to 348. The high school graduates number 8,073, and the number of teachers and administrators has increased from six to eighty. The campus has grown in size from one-half block to more than two blocks, and the number of buildings from one to seven. Instead of four years' work it now offers six -- four in high school and two in college.

The school's service to the public has also been greatly increased. Its original curriculum was chiefly college preparatory. Now in addition to college preparation, it offers vocational training for those who do not plan to go to college and a comprehensive program in homemaking for girls who will become housewives. Art, music, literature, social activities, clubs, and sports promote the appreciation of the fine arts and the enjoyment of leisure time.

To further increase its service the school has added a program of adult education. From a small beginning during World War Two the program has grown to include as many as twenty-one courses, enrolling 600 or more in a single year. For the adults there are high school and college courses in typing, dressmaking, carpentry, welding, auto mechanics, agriculture, English, mathematics, and a host of other subjects.

The school has long been recognized for its high standards of scholarship and with its expanded program of service to all people of the community has become one of the most progressive schools in the state. Every year numerous visitors come, even some from foreign countries, to study its program and methods. In the past the school has been an important factor in the moral, intellectual, cultural and economic development of Mt. Vernon, and will continue so in the future.

-- Prepared by LLOYD R. DeWITT

THE DIX METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Episcopal Church South of Dix was organized in 1863. Among the first members were Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Timberly and S. W. Carpenter and family. At the time the early history of Jefferson County was written, there were about ninety members. Reverend Claybourne Whitson was the minister and J. M. McCormich was Sunday School Superintendent.

The church, a brick structure, was built about 1865 and was about 34 by 50 feet in size. It was described as an "excellent brick structure." The rock for the foundation was hauled from the Prairie farm east of Dix, now known as the Russel Stroup farm, by Jap and Lige Hawkins, then about fifteen years old. The bricks were made in a brick kiln on the north side of the farm now owned by Mack Hayes. They were made by Uncle Sammy Carpenter.

A Methodist Episcopal Church was built in Rome about 1867. It was a frame building; in fact, it is still referred to as "the old frame church." This building was approximately 36 by 40 feet and cost the large sum of $3000. In the eighties this church was listed as having about fifty members, with Rev. Bowyer as minister and William Ayers as Sunday School Superintendent. Many years later this church closed and most of the members transferred to the brick church. The frame church was remodeled and for many years was used by the Dix Grade School and the Dix High School.

The brick church, now known as the Dix Methodist Church, has been remodeled. A basement and a modern oil furnace and classroom are housed in it. A lobby and two more classrooms were added in 1962. The basement, started in 1958, was made possible by a bequest from Mrs. Oscar Fields, who before her marriage was Lena Hawkins. A bequest by Mrs. Walter Riley, whose husband was formerly the mayor of Dix, also helped. Several other donations were received, and much of the work was done by the members.

The church has been redecorated, an organ installed, and under the pastorate of Rev. Rosemary Harris is making great progress. Jim Tom Warren is the present church school superintendent. An active church school, M.Y.F., prayer meeting and Woman's Society of Christian Service, as well as a Vacation Bible School under the direction of Mrs. Grace Douthit, are maintained.

--By Rev. Rosemary Harris

LOUIS LINCOLN EMMERSON

(Excerpts from a paper prepared by Denver McDonald and reproduced in quantity by the Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce)

In November, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln spoke his memorable words at Gettysburg, while the outcome of the titanic struggle of the Civil War was very much in doubt. The following month a son was born to Jesse and Fannie Saurdet Emmerson. The boy was named Louis Lincoln Emmerson, so named because his grandfather Allan Emmerson's two terms in the State Legislature with Abraham Lincoln had caused the family to have undying respect for the man who now so courageously tried to remold the country into one great united group of states.

The name Emmerson is an old and honorable one and has been traced back to England prior to the year 1400. In 1638 pioneers of the American branch of the family came to Ipswich, Massachusetts, with the Puritans. From thence, ancestors of Louis L. Emmerson went to Virginia, later to Kentucky, to Indiana; and in 1817 Louis' grandfather Allan moved to Illinois.

L. L. Emmerson's mother was a native of Switzerland. His father was a man of sterling integrity, a man who frequently served his community as a public official in offices of high trust. In the stirring days just before the Civil War he was elected the sheriff of Edwards County, Illinois, and won distinction by the efficiency of his administration at a time when being sheriff was very hazardous.

The first decade of young Louis' life was a time of stirring events in the nation. Sherman marched to the sea and captured Savannah. Lincoln was re-elected. Lee surrendered at Appomattox. The Atlantic Cable was laid. The Klu Klux Klan was organized and controlled the South through fear and violence. Nebraska was admitted to the Union. Alaska was purchased. President Johnson was impeached. The first railroad to the Pacific was completed. Boss Tweed lost control of New York, and the Panic of 1873 was just beginning to become a grim reality. During this troubled period of our national life, very little can be learned about Louis, who had now grown to the age of ten. It is assumed, however, that he was growing up along the traditional lines; and that the influences of the home, the church and the school were

beginning to shape up and set the pattern for the sterling character he was to possess.

The second decade of his life was also one in which our nation was expanding in spite of internal strife. Custer made his last stand. The telephone was invented. Colorado was admitted to the Union. President Hayes withdrew the troops from the South. Edison invented the incandescent electric light. President Garfield was assassinated.

During this period Louis had advanced from grade school to high school. He was very industrious and had few idle moments. However, he apparently lived a normal Illinois small-town boyhood with perhaps a bit more than the normal amount of work in it. He was a student of music and earned for himself a place in the Albion High School band. It was while playing in the band that his romance started with Miss Anne Matthews, who seven years later was to become his wife. To the well-known prestige of the Emmerson family was now added that of the well and favorably known Matthews family.

Morris Emmerson, older brother of Lou, had left the family home at Albion and had decided to seek his future in Mt. Vernon some fifty miles away. He soon established himself in the newspaper business and was very successful. So thoroughly was he sold on the future of Mt. Vernon that he wrote his brother Lou, asking that he consider bringing his bride and making his home here. They came. It was 1887.

Lou was twenty-one and full of ambition. Capitalizing on his experience as a store clerk at Albion, he now decided to go into business for himself. He opened a department store and built a successful business based on the principle of honest dealing with the people he served. His popularity increased. His friendship and advice were soon sought by men of all classes. Soon his name was being mentioned in political circles. He ran for alderman in 1893 and was elected. It is interesting to note (as might be expected of such a man) that he ran for office on a public improvement program. In 1893 he was also the people's choice for president of the school board. Largely through his dynamic leadership a building program was started which greatly enlarged the educational facilities of the Mt. Vernon schools.

Success seemed to be his. It was his belief that a man should have more than one business connection. Thus it was no surprise

to his friends when he founded the Boston Store in 1889. This store soon became the outstanding store in Mt. Vernon. Its phenomenal success can be traced to the policies of fair and honest dealing which Mr. Emmerson believed in so thoroughly.

At the time he was establishing himself as a business man he was also becoming a political figure. He went from alderman to precinct committeeman. Later he was elected Republican County Chairman of Jefferson County; and he progressed from this to more important political positions, serving on the Congressional Committee and finally as a member of the State Central Committee. He was a member of the State Board of Equalization during part of the term 1904-1908. During the administration of Governor Deneen he was appointed a member of the Southern Illinois Prison Commission. His thoroughness, his organizing ability, his sincerity and his ability to make and hold friendships, as evidenced in these minor political jobs, made him a marked man for future and greater political service.

Mr. Emmerson's business life was as extensive as his other activities. He was engaged in the mercantile business until 1901, when he helped organize the Third National Bank and accepted the position of cashier. Here he made friends by the score. His courtous treatment of customers and the efficient manner in which he did his work was soon brought to the attention of his superiors. Many promotions were to be his, both politically and in business. He advanced to the presidency of the bank, which position he filled in a most capable manner.

Mr. Emmerson was very active in civic and fraternal organizations. He was a Rotarian and a staunch supporter of the Mt. Vernon club. He belonged to the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Red Men, Loyal Order of Moose, Elks, Modern Woodmen, and the Masonic Order.

His Masonic history is one of great activity, covering many years of faithful service. He bears the unusual distinction of having been Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, in addition to the title of Grand Master. In 1891 he was made a Master Mason in Mt. Vernon Lodge, and became its Master in 1913. He was exalted in H. J. Hubbard Chapter, R.A.M., in Mt. Vernon, and served as its High Priest for seven years up to 1905, when he was elected to office in the Grand Chapter line, becoming Grand High Priest in October, 1913. He received the Council

degrees in Danville Council, afterward taking part in the organization of the Mt. Vernon Council in 1912. He was made a Knight Templar in Cyrene Commandery, Centralia, later taking a prominent part in the organization of Patton Commandery at Mt. Vernon and serving as its Commander during its first three years. In 1912 he was elected Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery, being regularly advanced until 1919, when he was elected Grand Commander. He received the degrees of the Scottish Rite in Oriental Consistory of Chicago and later became a member of the East Saint Louis Consistory. In 1911 he was crowned a thirty-third degree Mason at Saratoga, New York.

He also had a unique political history in that he attended his first Republican National Convention in 1896, as a spectator, and from that time attended every G. O. P. convention until the time of his death -- and was a delegate to all but one.

Mr. Emmerson was without question a man of great influence, in the State of Illinois and elsewhere; but the townspeople of Mt. Vernon remember him as the friendly merchant, banker, counselor and advisor....a man who worked ceaselessly for a better Mt. Vernon. The fact that the Car Shops located here and that we have the finest park in Southern Illinois is due perhaps more to his tireless efforts than those of any other man.

Friends prevailed upon him to seek nomination and election as Secretary of State of Illinois. In doing so he promised to prove by his administration that business efficiency can be applied in public service. He kept that promise. He was elected Secretary of State in 1916 with a plurality of 61,000 votes, was re-elected in 1920 with a plurality of nearly 400,000, and in 1924 he was given the greatest plurality ever received yet by any candidate in Illinois.

Under his direction the office of Secretary of State became one of the most important in the state government, and its efficiency is attested by all who had dealings with that department. Instead of spending 9.49 per cent of the amount collected for administration, as was done prior to 1917, Mr. Emmerson's administration spent but 3.25 per cent. No similar department in the United States ever equalled that showing. He accomplished this economy quietly, as was his custom, by applying simple yet sound business principles such as he had followed in private business.

Under Governor Lowden's administration Mr. Emmerson was one of the strongest supporters of the efforts for good government. He was one of those who advised with Governor Lowden in the working out of the hard roads system and in advocating the first $60,000,000 bond issue to be paid off with automobile fees. Always an advocate of good roads, he saw in this plan an opportunity to pull Illinois out of the mud and helped very materially in his official capacity to make the plan a success. Governor Lowden showed his estimate of Mr. Emmerson's ability and worth when he made him manager of the Lowden campaign for the Republican nomination for president in 1920.

Thursday, November 10, 1927, was "Emmerson Day" in Mt. Vernon. A great crowd of some five thousand friends and political leaders in Central and Southern Illinois, representing at least fifty counties, gathered in front of Secretary of State Emmerson's home to hear him make a statement concerning his candidacy for the governorship of Illinois. The great crowd and the tremendous ovation it gave Mr. Emmerson was proof enough that this one time small town banker and business man was now the people's choice for governor of the great State of Illinois. Governor Small had served two terms and was a candidate again. Opposing Small in the primary election the Republican Party had two other men, Oscar E. Carlstrom, who was serving as attorney general, and Secretary of State L. L. Emmerson. Mr. Carlstrom finally withdrew as candidate for governor and decided to seek re-election as attorney general. This left a straight-out battle between Governor Small and Mr. Emmerson for the nomination.

Mr. Emmerson was the peopl's choice. They liked the program which this quiet, unassuming man advocated. Furthermore, they had faith that he could and would fulfill his promises. At the polls he was given such an enormous majority of votes that he carried his entire ticket to victory with him. Thus, at the age of sixty-four, an age when many are considering retiring from the strain of our present society, Louis L. Emmerson was beginning his greatest work -- serving the people of the great State of Illinois as their twenty-seventh governor.

His administration started under most favorable auspices, but before a year had passed the great depression struck the country and

the nation staggered under the blow. No state was hit harder than the great industrial state of Illinois, where hundreds of thousands were thrown out of employment almost overnight by the closing of hundreds of manufacturing plants.

As the panic continued month after month, the situation grew ever more serious, and no public man in the country recognized the seriousness of the crises more quickly than the governor of Illinois. He was among the first governors to call upon his legislature for immediate and adequate relief measures to care for the thousands who had been made destitute by the unexpected business depression.

With food riots threatened in Chicago with its great number of foreign born, and with conditions almost as serious in other lesser industrial centers, there was no time for delay. There was not time to set up any such elaborate system of relief machinery as has since been put in operation. It was a time for quick action and for drastic measures, and under the leadership of Governor Emmerson Illinois acted promptly and efficiently.

Always a humane and kindly man, the governor was deeply touched by the sad plight of many of the people of the state; and he worked night and day on measures to help them and to avert serious trouble. In his efforts to do this he forgot party politics and worked with local officials all over the state, standing shoulder to shoulder with the Democratic mayor of Chicago where the situation was most serious, in every effort to relieve a situation that was more terrible and menacing than many people of the rural sections of the state ever realized. Frequently he was urged to mobilize the National Guard and send it to Chicago to avert the ever present threat of bloody food riots, but this he steadily refused to do, declaring that some way must be found to save the situation without resort to such measures.

Illinois fought its way through the darkest days of this national crisis, but they took a toll on the health of its governor from which he never fully recovered. Always a man of tremendous energy and vitality, he left the governor's office with his health broken but with the fight won. The people of Illinois owe him a great debt of gratitude for his courageous and tireless efforts in those days of trial.

Louis L. Emmerson's life as a banker, a business man, his time as Secretary of State and finally as governor is well known to thousands. Many phases of his life were less colorful in the eyes of the public -- yet these showed the true greatness which was his.

Mr. Emmerson was deeply religious. He served as a deacon and trustee of the First Presbyterian Church and taught a Sunday School class there for many years. It was called the "100 Class" by the hundred men that composed it. He was a genuine student of the Bible just as he was a student of human nature. While serving as governor he made a special trip from Springfield to be present at the twentieth reunion of the men's bible class of which he was a charter member and also former teacher. Mr. Emmerson was the speaker of the evening.

We have already mentioned his active interest in civic and fraternal organizations.

Another phase of Mr. Emmerson's life was in the field of sports and athletics. He was an ardent sport fan and seldom missed an opportunity to attend all possible baseball and basketball games. He was also very fond of golf. V. Y. Dallman, writing for the Illinois State Register wrote, "I was wondering how the governor retains his girlish figure and keeps so young when, to my surprise, I was advised that he rises every morning at 5 o'clock, plays a round of golf before breakfast and after a cold plunge is all ready for a hard day's work at his desk by 8 o'clock. Here's another secret: The governor confided to me that he is a 'poor golfer' but that he shot a 96 for 18 holes this week."

Perhaps his best loved sport was in the field of fishing. His skill with the rod won him considerable fame. The magazine, "Field and Stream," has told of some of his exploits -- how he caught the largest kingfish ever taken in the waters off the Honduras Coast. The magazine also carried his story of a 44-pound muskelonge catch which was perhaps the highlight of his fishing career.

Mr. Emmerson was a writer of considerable skill. His magazine articles were enjoyed by hundreds of fishermen. He traveled widely and at every opportunity. One of the most interesting articles I have ever read dealing with South America was his paper written upon his return from a visit to every South American country. His paper deals

with "Cultivating Friendships." It is based on the assumption that South America is a land of opportunity for us or for Europe -- for us if we make only a reasonably effective effort to meet them half way in trade relations.

Mr. Emmerson was honored in many ways. While serving as Secretary of State, the finest hotel in Southern Illinois was built and named in his honor. To have such a structure bear one's name is unmistakable proof of one's eminence.

He loved Mt. Vernon. Here his two daughters, Mrs. Aline Ward and Mrs. Harold Watson, were born, spent their childhood and later established homes of their own. Here his grandchildren were born. Here he was "Lou" to his countless friends and neighbors. He was never so happy as when at home, surrounded by his family circle where he cast aside the cares of business and political life. It was to this town and family circle that he returned at the close of his term as governor. It was here eight years later that he passed quietly away.

Edwin Rackaway, editor of the Register-News, summed up Mr. Emmerson's passing so well when on February 5, 1941, he wrote:

Eight years have elapsed since Governor Emmerson left the executive mansion to return to his home town, to take up the threads of life where he had dropped them years before to devote himself to a public career. Who can say that these eight years, despite his illness, were not among the happiest of his life. It must have been a welcome quiet after the storm, and he spent his last years surrounded by those he loved best, the devoted wife of more than half a century, his children and grandchildren.

This beautiful family circle, broken now after fifty years, suffers most in his peaceful passing, after a great and honorable career, but there are many others who are deeply grieved.

Citizens the stature of Louis L. Emmerson, men of his ability, and integrity are rare, unfortunately. They cannot be easily spared.

The governor is gone and his home town has lost something of great value in his passing. It will probably be a long time before we see his like again.

EAST SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The East Salem Missionary Baptist Church was organized in December, 1853, in the Duncan School House, and the first regular church

service was held on January 19, 1854. Services were held in the Duncan School building until the first church was erected in 1860 on land donated by Bluford Harlow. This large log building is still standing. The land has never been out of the Harlow family since it was deeded to Aaron Harlow by the government in 1835. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Claude C. Harlow.

The present church building was erected in 1882 on land donated by Hiram Duncan for the church and cemetery.

The first person buried in the cemetery was Hiram Duncan's son, Nathaniel Duncan.

In May, 1896, the church building was almost destroyed by a tornado and was rebuilt in the fall of 1896.

Additional class rooms and a basement have been added to the church in the last few years.

--Mrs. Claude C. Harlow

FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The Free Methodist Church was organized by a convention of lay members and ministers which met at Pekin, Niagara County, New York on the 23rd of August, 1860. The first General Conference of the newly formed church met on the second Wednesday of October, 1862, at St. Charles, Illinois. This meeting organized the work of the Free Methodist Church in the state of Illinois. Because of transportation difficulties in those horse and buggy days it became necessary to divide the western group into smaller areas, and in 1885 the Central Illinois Conference of the Free Methodist Church was organized. This new area included Mt. Vernon, Jefferson County, Illinois, and it became a part of the church known as the Cowden District.

The Mt. Vernon Free Methodist Church was organized at the turn of the century and was known as the Mt. Vernon-Wayne Circuit. Under the leadership of Rev. W. D. Cochran, District President, the church grew and prospered in its location on East Main Street between Seventh and Eighth Streets, its first pastor being Rev. C. P. Ewing.

The congregation met to decide on a relocation project, and the committee found a site in the Old Orchard Division located at Nineteenth and Logan Streets in the southwest part of the city of Mt. Vernon. In 1912 construction began and was completed on the structure which still stands, and the present congregation worships in a fine and adequate building and facilities.

The program or organization of the Free Methodist Church extends to the far corners of the earth through its extensive missionary endeavor, assisted by the local members of the Women's Missionary Society under the leadership of its president, Mrs. Olive Duncan Lawrence. Its mission field, home and abroad, extends to twenty-two world areas.

The missionary program is extended to the entire listening world through the medium of radio. The "Light and Life Hour," now in its eighteenth year, sends its message over many continental and foreign stations in seven languages, including Russian and Latvian. Dr. Myron F. Boyd, the director, and his staff are now working on a program to the Chinese in their native language.

The "Light and Life Men's Fellowship" is a world wide organization of the men of the church. They have adopted as their motto, "Men Win Men."

An active, agressive and inspirational program is in operation for the youth group known as the "F.M.Y." (Free Methodist Youth. This includes a monthly contact list of all military service personnel of the church and any others desiring this service. The aim of this organization is to christianize the youth for better world social influence and to prepare them effectively to serve their fellow man.

The program for the intermediate youth and juniors is carried on through a well organized educational program known as the C.Y.C. (Christian Youth Crusaders). This program is set up to teach them better citizenship and to instruct them in the basic principles and fundamentals of the church. An award and merit system is set up in assisting the boys and girls in developing character.

The Church Study Hour (Sunday School), under the capable leadership of the superintendent, Opal Wemette, is set up with a definite evangelistic outlook.

Since the days of its beginning, the Free Methodist Church has had outstanding men who have faithfully pastored the church. Rev. J. Paul Taylor began his public ministry in this church, and today he is a bishop of the denomination. Rev. V. L. Parsons, still very active in the ministry, began his ministry here. Others we call to memory have entered their blessed rest, among them Rev. Thomas Dulaney and Rev. C. E. Ring; Rev. Elmer McKay, who became the church's outstanding evangelist, faithfully served God and the community. Thê work and labors of those who have gone on is carried on by the present pastor, Rev. T. J. Wemette, and the faithful members who stand by the principles of this fine church.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, would be considered as a rather young church as far as years go, being established thirty-two years ago on the present site on the corner of 11th and Jordan streets.

After a sweeping revival beginning on February 23, 1930, and continuing for seven full weeks, conducted by the Rev. W. R. Burton and J. N. Allen, the church was organized with fifty charter members.

Rev. W. R. Burton, of Whittington, Illinois, is considered by many to be the dean of the Free Will Baptist Churches throughout Southern Illinois, and we are very pleased to say that he is still on the semi-active list as a minister in our organization.

Immediately after the first revival services terminated, the church was organized and the first elected trustees were Arthur Owens, Arthur Raney, W. G. Williford and Rev. M. L. Baker. The first deacons were George Mazo, Tom Flannigan, Herbert Rea and Rev. M. L. Baker.

In 1954 a revival conducted by Rev. Paul Sulcer and Rev. Oran Kersh continued for forty-two consecutive nights with the result of over a hundred decisions for Christ. The baptismal services for this revival were held in the First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon.

With an ever-increasing membership, officers of the church realized the need for an expansion program for added facilities for the Sunday School which was in dire need of more space. On July 20, 1955, the church purchased a modern two-story brick building situated immediately in back of the church, which had been the home of the Hanna Printing Co. This building was completely remodeled inside for classrooms, with six classrooms on the second floor and a minister's study. The main floor was remodeled for a dining area and recreational purposes.

The Educational Building was dedicated in 1956 by the Rev. W. R. Burton, the original founder of the church.

The present pastor of the church is the Rev. Paul Sulcer. Deacons are Ralph Dethrow, Frank Carter, Felix Drennan, Walter Shelton, and Ben Thompson. Trustees are Arthur Raney, Ed Flota, Gale Flota, Otto Bayer, Hall Cherry and George Kirk.

FARM BUREAU OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

The need for better farming was evident to a few of us who knew of some other counties hiring farm advisors who were agricultural graduates, and we decided we needed help in improving our farms and at

the same time raising our standard of living. We started a membership drive to secure three hundred members (that amount was necessary for the extension service to o.k. an advisor). After we secured the required number, we organized by electing W. T. Wooden president. I was a director, and I believe Xavier Kiefer was one other, but do not remember the rest of the board. We hired Bentram Abney as our first advisor, and I. Marie Degand as office secretary.

We started calling meetings on different subjects, and having speakers from the University of Illinois to speak on various subjects related to farm activity. We could almost always have at least the board members present, and sometimes six to twelve farmers present. Mr. Abney worked hard to get interest stimulated in all lines of farm improvement.

We went along some time as a county unit, but later affiliated with the Illinois Agricultural Association and American Farm Bureau Federation.

Interest was picking up when Mr. Abney left us and went with the Ford Motor Company Tractor Division. I think then we hired L. R. Caldwell as farm advisor. He was with us some time, then he went to Washington County. I believe we then hired a Mr. Scott, who was there only a short time. Our next advisor, I believe, was Mr. Sidwell, then Charles Twigg, then our present Don Lee.

My memory is so poor I cannot give all the information on our Farm Bureau, but Farm Bureau has done a fine work in aiding the farmers of Jefferson County to help themselves and will continue, I believe to be our best asset. I haven't said anything about its auxiliary services and organizations, but they are very important in the lives of our farmers.

-- Aaron E. Drennan

CHURCH OF GOD, SEVENTH STREET AND CONGER AVENUE

The Church of God with international headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee, had its humble beginning in the mountains of North Carolina, when a group of people became dissatisfied with the churches with which they were affiliated. They felt they were becoming too modern and formal. Out of this dissatisfaction grew one of the largest Pentecostal churches in the world. The year 1961 marked its Diamond Jubilee year. (1886-1961)

In the year of 1918 only six churches were organized in the state of Illinois and all of them were in the southern section of the state. It was in this year that R. A. Fielden, a travelling evangelist, came to Mt. Vernon and set up a tent on the Edison School yard and started a revival. The revival met with such success that the congregation decided to build a church building. They built on the corner of Fifth Street and Bell. Here they enjoyed some great revivals of the sensational order. The building was often so well attended that the people stood in the yard and street to see what was going on.

At some later time the congregation decided to move to a Tenth Street location. The church was maintained here until the year 1948, when under the leadership of Estel Moore the congregation moved to the present location of Seventh and Conger. Not too much is on record of the activities of the church up until this time.

With the new building erected, it became necessary in four or five years to purchase a house for the Pastor. The building was bought at 1017 South Sixth Street. It was the parsonage until 1961, when the present pastor relocated the Minister's Home to 604 South 19th Street. Real estate holdings of the church include the church site at Seventh and Conger, the parking lot immediately in front of the church building, and the parsonage at 604 South 19th Street. The total value of the property would be placed at perhaps $47,000.

The Church of God has had many set-backs due to the type of people the church reaches. The church realized a well-rounded growth in every department until the year when the Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Company closed. Since the majority of its members were working people, the church suffered seriously financially. Many of

the people moved into other areas for employment. From the year 1954 until 1957 the church felt the sting of recession perhaps as keenly as any church in town. During this time, weekly attendance often was very low. The faithful few kept holding on and believing in the future of their church and their city. In September of 1957, the present pastor moved into the parsonage. The church began to take on new life a little at a time. The Sunday School began to climb slowly, and before long the attendance had doubled.

The membership of the church has tripled since 1957, and financially the church is as sound as it has ever been, according to the old timers of the church.

The church started its "Voice of Faith" radio program in September of 1959. This was a very wise move for the church. It has been stated that the "Voice of Faith" has one of the largest listening audiences of any program on the local station.

In August of 1959 the pastor, along with the men of the church, saw the need of a religious book store. A building was rented and the opening day was August 31, 1959. The church still maintains the store, which supplies all kinds of religious supplies for any church need -- except Sunday School literature. The Pathway Bible Book Store is the first associate-type book store operation in the Church of God.

This church maintains a Sunday School and Church bus which is intended to furnish transportation to people who otherwise would not be able to attend the church.

One of the noted things about the Church of God is its music and its singing. Many people remark of the enthusiastic singing done by the people of this church. Few have any musical training whatever. The singing receives a very large part of the worship time of the regular services. Several musical instruments are also a part of the musical aspect of the church.

The Church of God has a church designed with youngsters ranging from the ages of five to fifteen in mind. Every Sunday morning at 11:00 this service is under the direction of some one appointed for the work. This is in addition to the regular Sunday School.

The youths of the church also have a service during the week under the name of Young People's Endeavor. The service is for the training of the young people.

The Church of God in Illinois has an annuam camp meeting on its camp ground in Benton, Illinois. It has as its main governing body of assembly the General Assembly held biennially. Since 1952 until 1962 the meetings have been held in Memphis, Tennessee. The official weekly organ of the church is called the "Church of God Evangel." The official youth magazine is a monthly periodical called "Lighted Pathway."

THE STORY OF THE GENERAL

(The General was in Mt. Vernon from June 18 to the morning of June 20, 1962. June 18, 1962, was exactly one hundred years from the day that seven of the men who participated in the chase described here were hanged as spies in public execution at Atlanta, Georgia.)

Jeff Cain, engineer on the Western & Atlantic Railroad, let his locomotive, the General, roll to a stop at Big Shanty, Georgia, about six o'clock the morning of April 12, 1862. He and his fireman and the conductor started toward the nearby hotel for breakfast. Aboard the train a tall man with a black beard stood as the door closed behind Cain and casually started toward the door, and one man followed him. Both made an inspection outside, a signal was given, and eighteen other men in the coach rose and went outside also. They climbed down on the side opposite to the hotel, then moved silently along trackside toward the locomotive. The bearded man was James J. Andrews, a Union secret service agent, and of the nineteen men with him, all except one were Union soldiers dressed in civilian clothes. After the coupling pin was pulled behind the last freight car, sixteen of the men scrambled into one of the empty freight cars--Andrews and three others climbed into the cab of the General.

Inside the hotel, Conductor Fuller glanced out the window and stared -- the General's wheels spun briefly, then the locomotive lurched forward with three boxcars trailing behind it. Fuller shouted, he and the engineer and foreman burst outside just in time to see the

last car of the train disappear around a curve.

The Confederate front ran from Memphis, Tennessee, to Alexandria, Virginia. The purpose of the raid was to cut this front in two by crippling the vital rail supply link between Atlanta and Chattanooga. The plan was to commandeer a locomotive and en route north to set fire to as manny as possible of the several bridges on the W. & A. Railroad, thus putting the railroad out of commission.

As the three railroad employees saw their train disappear, in a seemingly futile gesture they started to run along the track in pursuit. At Moon's Station, two miles down the line, they borrowed a push car and set off down the long downhill grade. Two miles from Etowah the pushcar was derailed by a gap in the track where the fugitives apparently had removed two lengths of rail. Fuller and his men quickly put the car back on the track beyond the gap and proceeded to Etowah. There the old Yonah, with a full head of steam, was standing on the spur. Fuller and his group boarded the Yonah and within minutes they and some six or eight Confederate soldiers were zooming down the track in a mist of rain. The fourteen miles to Kingston were covered in fifteen minutes, indeed a record for the thirteen-year-old engine. At Kingston, however, Fuller met with more frustration. The agent had been fooled into permitting Andrews and his boxcars full of Federal soldiers to pass through. After hearing the agent's story, Fuller, Murphy and the others abandoned the Yonah and uncoupled the locomotive Smith from its passenger coach and again the chase was on.

The going was slow, however. At intervals, the engineer had to stop so that crossties could be removed from the track, and after four miles the train had to give up the chase. Fuller and Murphy climbed down and started again on foot. The two men had covered perhaps three miles in the direction of Adairsville when they heard a southbound train. It stopped for them and Murphy explained what had happened. The enginneer reversed the train on Murphy's orders and continued down the main line in reverse--the name of his locomotive was the Texas. The next nine miles were covered in twelve minutes.

About two miles north of Calhoun, Fuller and Murphy sighted the General stopped and a group attempting to pry up a rail. A quick toot of the whistle from the Texas sent them scurrying back aboard the stolen train. Within seconds it had disappeared around a curve.

Then the Texas rounded the curve, in its path was a boxcar rolling slowly toward it. Engineer Bracken slowed, coupled onto the boxcar, and proceeded with the chase. The Texas roared around a short curve onto a fill leading to the high wooden trestle approach to the bridge across the Oostanaula River, and there standing on the trestle was another boxcar. They coupled onto it and were on the move again. At Resaca, just beyond the Oostanaula, the two boxcars were quickly shunted to the siding, and the chase resumed. The General was headed forward, the Texas was running in reverse, and each hurtled down the track at more than a mile a minute along a stretch of railroad where the safe speed was listed at between sixteen and eighteen miles per hour. Aboard the General rode twenty armed men; aboard the Texas were five men and two boys, unarmed except for Anthony Murphy's rusty shotgun. He said later that he didn't even know whether or not it was loaded.

For Andrews and his nineteen raiders, time was running out -- so were wood and water. Steam pressure began to drop at an alarming rate and the speed of the General slowed accordingly. The bearded man advised his men to leave the engine in small groups and try to make their way back to the Federal lines in Tennessee. On the top of the grade two miles north of Ringgold the General gave one final gasp and rolled to a dead stop. In seconds the General was abandoned.

The daring "Andrews Raid" a feat that might have brought a quick end to the Civil War, had failed.

HAROLD HOWARD CONTRIBUTES:

"Some History of Business in Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County"

"Bright with the respendency of culture, throbbing with the life blood of industry and commerce which seeks only to find a more liberal and more widely extended expression is Mt. Vernon, the commercial center of a great commonwealth, which numbers among its people the best and most progressive: a city of beauty embalmed in the heart of love of every Mt. Vernonian. Did some bard wish to pronounce an apostrophe to the King City of Southern Illinois, here would he find his text. It is naturally one of the attractive cities of Illinois and upon it is stamped the signet of enterprise and public spirit.

"The sum of Mt. Vernon's prosperity is but in its ascendency and still far from the zenith. Enterprise is planning new forms of labor and new institutions of learning and charity."

All this is taken from a publication of 1916 modestly entitled: "Greater Mt. Vernon. Opportunity's Gateway--The King City."

We also have the statement of Joe V. Baugh that, "There are few more inviting spots on God's foot-stool than Mt. Vernon during the heated term."

When I was asked to do this paper on Pioneer Business Firms and Industrial Development of Mt. Vernon, I expected to have to depend largely on recollections of my own life time, what I had heard from some of the older residents and what could be remembered by some of those older citizens who are still with us. However, I have been greatly surprised at the amount of information that is still available in printed form and the difficulty was in organizing, boiling down and eliminating.

For our facts and near facts we are indebted to the book "Illinois in 1837" by S. Augustus Mitchell, "The History of Jefferson County" by William Henry Perrin, "Wall's History of Jefferson County" written by John A. Wall in 1909, "The Headlight," a souvenir booklet issued by the L. & N. Railroad in 1898, "A City Directory" of 1901-02, a special supplement to the Mt. Vernon News issued in 1904, and the "Greater Mt. Vernon Opportunity's Gateway," previously mentioned which was issued in 1916.

Mr. Wall credits much of his information to Dr. Adam Clark Johnson, a close relative of my mother, who wrote the famous Johnson Family History.

Jefferson County was organized June 7, 1819, from Edwards and White Counties, and the City of Mt. Vernon was laid out by William Hostick, in June or July, 1819, and comprised twenty acres which was donated for that purpose by William Casey. According to my information Mr. Casey erected a house about where the Post Office now stands at Eleventh and Main, saying, "Boys, here is the first house in town;" but when the town was laid out, his house was just a few yards west of the city limits which ran along Casey Street (now Eleventh Street).

Business in those early days was extremely simple but by no means easy.

Mr. Perrin says that prior to 1840 peltry was the chief staple of the county. Sometimes it seemed to be the only thing anybody had to sell or buy goods with. Merchants sent deer hides to St. Louis by the hundreds, some shaved and some with the hair on. The shaving was done fast and cheap. A man hung a hide up by the neck, took a knife, scraped upwards and literally made the fur fly. Scraping a deer's hide was considered to be worth from 3¢ to 5¢.

Most of the early settlers wore home made deer skin pantaloons, hunting shirts, and hats or caps, after they had worn out the original clothing they brought in with them. This was partly because they could get nothing else and partly because beyond the settlements the shrubs and vines soon tore cloth into shreds. However, most of these settlers were not good tanners, so their deer skin clothing was not very good looking. The breeches soon got tremendous knees that were a permanent part of the costume. When the breeches legs got wet, they would dangle down around their feet a foot too long; and when they dried, they were a foot too short.

After the first year or two, people had time to raise cotton, and buckskin gave way to cotton which was dyed with copperas. The people made their own indigo, and the process of setting the dye was such as to draw buffalo gnats around one's Sunday clothes in a most provoking manner. The book, "Illinois in 1837," says that the wild animals were deer, wolves, racoons, and opossum, but that buffalo

which were formerly numerous had entirely left the limits of the State.

Dear were then more abundant than in the first settlement of the country, as they appeared to increase with the population, apparently because they found protection in the neighborhood of man, from the beasts of prey that assail them in the wilderness and from whose attacks their young particularly can with difficulty escape. Immense numbers of deer were killed every year by hunters who took them for the hams and skins, throwing away the rest of the carcass. Venison hams and hides were important articles of export. Fresh hams usually sold at from 75¢ to $1.50 a pair and when properly cured were a delicious article of food. Partridges were taken with nets in the winter by hundreds in a day and furnished no trifling item in the luxuries of the city markets.

Bees were plentiful, and many frontier people made them a profitable business. After the frost had killed the vegetation, the people would hunt the bees for honey and wax, both of which found a ready market. Bees were kept by farmers to a considerable extent. Many farmers had large droves of cows, and the author says they could be multiplied to an almost indefinite extent.

Butter was 12¢ to 20¢ a pound, and home made cheese brought 8¢ to 10¢. Other products were grapes, plums, crab apples, apples, peaches, corn, wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, Irish and sweet potatoes, turnips, rye for horse feed and distilleries, tobacco, cotton, hemp, flax, castor beans, and beet sugar.

These people also raised beef, horses and swine which brought four to five dollars delivered.

Before this time, however, Mr. Wall says, "Thus far there had been but little incentive to grow crops, for there was no market. Every settler raised his own corn, potatoes, and 'garden sass' but no more than enough for home consumption. Hard times were the rule especially by the time spring put in its appearance. About all the settler had to trade were hen's eggs, pelts, hides, etc., except occasionally the men and children would go into the woods and dig 'ginseng' which would bring about $3 per pound and that would make the whole family feel aristocratic. The cattle and hogs wintered

themselves. As to fresh meat, there was no trouble. The head of the family would take down his gun and go a little way into the woods and bring in game of different kinds for breakfast, dinner or supper when ever needed. And everybody had a little corn patch for bread, but there were no means to reduce the corn to meal except with those who were lucky enough to have mortars and pastles or those who would hollow out the top surface of a big stump and beat the essence out of it with a hammer or stone. There were no mills for a long while."

The first business establishment in Jefferson County of which I was able to find a record was that Mr. Perrin relates that in 1816 an old man named Hynes settled a little west of Kelly out on the Goshen Road where for some years he kept a public house.

In 1817 up the Goshen Road, William Goins settled. He was considered a bad man. He made millstones, and it was believed he also made counterfeit money. He had a tavern, a grocery, and a great many other things including bad company. After the settlement had increased a little more, he was invited to leave and obeyed with alacrity.

In about 1818 Lewis Watkins settled about a mile south of the Atchison place where he sold goods for a while. Isaac and William Casey constructed a little hand mill that would grind a bushel or two a day, and they did right well; but many of the first settlers had to beat their meal in a mortar.

Elisha Plummer, the first blacksmith, came to Mt. Vernon in 1820 and started a blacksmith shop in the William Casey house and also started two cabins on what is now South 11th Street. Mr. Wall says he was also a cabinet maker, his wife a sister to Jarvis Pierce. Colonel Reardon, the preacher, was his son. (I can't quite figure that one out.)

Wall also says that Thomas Tunstall bought the Kirby Tavern and kept it and sold groceries. (But it doesn't say when.) He bought and sent south a great deal of stock. He gave a set of plates or a set of knives and forks for a yearling. He erected a treadmill that stood near the Asa B. Watson place and brought John Summers from Shawneetown to run it. Summers afterward married and a long line of Summerses followed.

Downing Pace came, and married Milly Pace, went to Vandalia, to Collinsville, finally relocated in Mt. Vernon, where he sold goods and was Justice of the Peace. He built a two-story house on the north side of the square and put in another grocery store.

Joseph Wilbanks came in and took charge of the tavern.

The first gunsmith was a man named Lee who was here as early as 1822.

Rhoda Allen's sons were the first cabinet makers.

As Mr. Perrin says, "Thus the trades became represented on the County as business and population demanded." Mr. Wall lists among those who did business on the square and who bought in and sold out were William Hamblin, James Black, E. H. Ridgway, W. W. Pace, Stinson Anderson and scores of others whose names we have not been able to secure; but business went on and the town grew as the new settlers came in, mostly from where the original settlers came from. Mr. Wall tells how in 1830 Dr. Adams built a house where Grant's Store later was. He sold it to H. T. Pace for $20, and he to Burchett Maxey for $25, and he to Oliver Morris for $35.

According to the State Census of 1835, Jefferson County had a population of 3,350. Franklin County (organized in 1818) had 5,551. Washington County (organized the same year) had 3,292. Hamilton County (born in 1821) boasted 2,877 inhabitants, and Marion County (formed in 1823 from Jefferson and Fayette Counties) had 2,884.

Mt. Vernon -- the seat of justice -- was near the center of the county on a branch of the Big Muddy River. It was pleasantly situated on the north side of Carey's Prairie and surrounded with a considerable settlement. Population in 1835 was about 150, with six stores, three groceries, one tavern, two physicians, two ministers, a courthouse, a jail, a Methodist Episcopal and a Baptist Society, besides various mechanical establishments.

Jefferson County even then formed a square of twenty-four miles with an acreage of 576 square miles. The surface of the county was about one-third prairie, the remainder timber. The soil was "tolerable second rate."

There were several compact settlements in the county, among which were: Moores Prairie, six to twelve miles southeast of Mt. Vernon

with about seventy-five families; Prairie was eight miles long, two to three miles wide; Gun Prairie -- six miles south, two miles long, one mile wide, land good, twenty families; Long Prairie -- five miles west between the middle and west forks of Big Muddy, tolerably fertile, four miles long, one and a half miles wide, forty families; Jordans Prairie -- six miles north, five miles long, one and a half miles wide, fifty families; other old towns in the county, now extinct, included Winfield, Fitzgerald, and Lynchburg. Spring Garden was also at one time one of the leading cities of the county.

Other towns in this section of the state in those days were: Salem -- a pleasant village of about one hundred sixty; (no mention of Centralia is made in this book); Nashville -- on the main road to Shawneetown, several stores and mechanics, a steam mill, population one hundred to one hundred twenty; Fairfield -- several stores, handsome courthouse, about one hundred sixty; Carmi -- about two hundred fifty.

Chicago at that time had a population of about 8,000, and was just starting to grow. Mt. Carmel, Shawneetown, Edwardsville, were all considerably larger than Mt. Vernon; and Alton was really booming with wages of $2.50 to $3.00 for bricklayers per day, $2.00 to $2.50 for stone masons, and $1.50 less 50¢ per day board for laborers. Laborers in the East were getting 40¢ per day. Board at their hotels was $3.00 to $4.00 a week without lodging. Lodging was $1.00 to $1.50 a week additional. Boarding houses got $2.50 to $3.00 per week lodging included.

Illinois College had 42 students in college classes and 22 in the Preparatory Department. College classes were not yet organized at Shurtleff and McKendrecan Colleges, but they had 60 and 50 students in the Preparatory Department.

Steamboat fare from Louisville including meals was $12.00 and deck passage was $4.00.

Mt. Vernon was badly handicapped in the very early days by transportation problems. The towns then expected to prosper were along navigable rivers or main stage routes. Around 1837 was the period of development of the internal road and canal system, the canal part of which flopped in the panic of 1837. Practically all of the

railroad expansion of Illinois was still on paper in 1837, and nowhere is there any mention of the railroads which have figured in the growth of Centralia, Carbondale and Mt. Vernon. Nor had the Williamson-Franklin County coal field really been uncovered at that time, apparently. The national Road had been mapped as far west as Vandalia but not completed all the way to that city, and Illinois was putting on the pressure to have it cross the Mississippi at Alton rather than at St. Louis.

The next most important stage route was Vincennes to St. Louis, which passed through Salem and Carlyle, and the routes from the Ohio, particularly from Shawneetown, tied into that road at Carlyle but apparently missed Mt. Vernon.

Until development of the railroads which now pass through Mt. Vernon, we were more or less isolated from any particular reasons for attraction or expansion. The railroads seem to have brought the transportation needed for starting industries. Under the conditions, it is remarkable that Mt. Vernon made as much progress as she did during the first 25 or 30 years.

We seem to have had quite a stormy time in getting our first railroads, replete with various schemes, including much politics, city slickers, high hopes, bitter disappointments, and all the trimmings. Finally the St. Louis and South Eastern Railroad (now the L & N) was extended from Ashley to Mt. Vernon in 1869-70 using the original road bed made in 1858 by Van Duzer, Smith and Company. This was accomplished largely through the efforts of Samuel K. Casey, Dr. W. Duff Green, James M. Pace, Stephen T. Strattan, Juege Thomas S. Casey, George W. Evans, Charles H. Patton, James E. Fergerson, George H. Varnell, Cyrus L. Hayes and others.

The Air Line (now the Southern Railway) reached Mt. Vernon in 1883. The Chester and Tamaroa Road (later known as the W C & W and for a time owned by Dr. Letcher Irons and now a branch of the Missouri Pacific) was built in the 80's. It was destined to be continued to Terre Haute, Indiana, and to become part of another trunk line system. The Jacksonville and Southern also came into Drivers and on into Mt. Vernon over the L & N tracks and later the C & E I came in and played a large part in shaping the destiny of some of the smaller towns in the county.

The supplement to the Mt. Vernon News issued in June, 1904, announced that a second road to traverse the coal sections between here and the Mississippi was about to be constructed and that in addition the Southern Illinois Electric Railroad Company would that summer complete its line between Mt. Vernon and St. Louis and that the work of construction was then going on. The story further said that many wealthy people of St. Louis had purchased property for summer residences in or near Mt. Vernon, and their number might be expected to be largely increased after the completion of the electric line.

The telegraph came with the railroad. Mention is made of one Timothy Condit who in 1848 used to take and read the only daily paper that came to Mt. Vernon. One of the newspapers in 1866 said it was reported that eight or ten wells would be sunk for oil in Clark County; but it was nearly forty years before the work was done.

Incidentally, Mr. Wall calls Mt. Vernon a newspaper grave yard because of the many papers that have been born and died here in the past.

In 1869 the First Bank of Carlin Cross and Company was organized and a little later taken over by local capitalists as the Mt. Vernon National Bank with Noah Johnston, President and C. D. Ham, Cashier. In 1880 it became known as the Mt. Vernon Bank of C. D. Ham and Company, which name continued until 1897 when it became the Ham National Bank. The Third National Bank was organized with a capital stock of $50,000 and began business February 4, 1902. The Jefferson State Bank was organized November 20, 1905, also with a capital stock of $50,000. The Mt. Vernon State and Savings Bank consolidated with the Third National in 1905.

Mt. Vernon was incorporated as a village in 1837 and chartered as a city in 1872 with James M. Pace as the first mayor. Aldermen were Thomas H. Hobbs, Alexander Smart, John J. Bambrook, and Thomas Handsacker. John H. Pace was city clerk, John N. Satterfield police magistrate, and Edward J. Waters was city marshall.

A rather complete roster of our business men of past years would probably be of considerable interest to some, and here are some of such names as I have been able to dig up.

James M. Pace, in the supplement dated 1904, alluded to previously, lists some of the early business men as Joe Pace, Harvey T. Pace, -------- Johnson, Downing Baugh, Edward H. Ridgway, and E. D. Anderson. In 1904 only three of the original residents (all born within the present city limits) were known to be surviving. They were Joel F. Watson, James M. Pace, and Mrs. J. J. Fly.

The Unionist, one of the now deceased newspapers, in an issue of November 1863 lists business establishments of that time: J. Pace and Son, Main and Union Streets; H. T. Pace, southwest corner Main and Union; R. W. Lyon, northeast corner Bunyan and Union; T. H. Hobbs & Co., southeast corner Bunyan and Union; Strattan & Fergerson, northeast corner Bunyan and Washington; J. F. Watson, Main below Washington and Union; D. Baltzel & Son, Main corner Casey; Johnson & Ham, southwest corner Main and Casey; groceries were: W. D. Watson, Union north of Main; E. J. Winton, Main below Union & Washington; John Kleine, Main Street. clothing: M. Ehrman, Main Street; H. W. Seimer. Saddlery & Harness, J. E. Dawson, D. C. Warren, W. B. Thorn; Boots & Shoes -- John Hampel, William Faucher, J. R. Palmer; Wagons & Carriages -- Ira G. Carpenter, R. C. Garrell; Blacksmithing, W. H. Herdman, Hardin Davisson; Tinner -- Ed Noble; Drugs -- Dr. E. E. Welborn.

In those days the present Fifth Street was named Park. Sixth Street, which led to the famous Green Lawn Springs where the High School Gym now stands, was naturally, Spring. Seventh Street was Breckenridge. Ninth Street was Washington. Tenth Street was Union. Eleventh Street was Casey Street, giving us both Casey Street and Casey Avenue. Twelfth Street was First. Thirteenth Street was Elm. Broadway was Bunyan and ran east only to Eighth, which was the edge of the Green home place which extended from Jordan to Main between the present Seventh and Eighth Streets. The Greens also owned, among other properties, the Green Lawn Springs lot which contained among other things several famous springs and a huge roller skating rink.

We have been unable to find just when the streets were renamed, but it was when Judge A. D. Webb, father of Roger, George, Andy, and Mrs. Clarence Stelle, was city attorney.

In 1878, business men included Barger Brothers, Strattan, Pace and Westbrook, D. B. Goodrich, M. M. Goodale, S. S. Porter, E. M.

Sheppard, L. H. Thompson, Charles Zierjacks, Armsbury Company, Hobbs, Tabb and Haynes, Varnell and Company, Bittroff and Ryan, J. E. Jackson, J. E. Fergerson and Company, Mr. and Mrs. James Hitchcock, W. S. Hallowell, Pavey and Allen, Preston and Libby, Dr. Blum.

1880 -- The Jefferson County census was 20,686. Hugent and Brother had moved to St. Louis. Local business men included R. E. Ryan, R. F. Pace, Hicks and Company, B. F. Harmon, Nise and Company, Hudspeth and Poole, G. F. M. Ward, Howard Brothers, Rentchler and Waters, Simmons and Hinman, G. J. Yost and Company, Webb Brothers (A. D. and A. C.), Law.

My own outfit seems to have been here at least by 1883 in the grocery business (my grandfather Soloman, my father, and Uncle Joe.) They were in business in a half dozen different locations on the square, sold out and went to Atlanta for a few years, and came back and into groceries again. In 1897 Uncle Joe and Sam Casey started a wholesale grocery on West Broadway as J. T. Howard and Company, one of the first wholesale groceries in Southern Illinois. In October, 1899, my father sold his retail store and joined the firm which was incorporated on May 1, 1902, and continued for many years. Few local firms have had as long a continuous history, but several have been in business a good long time and have had extremely interesting careers.

One of the most vivid recollections of my own boyhood days is of the Fair Store, C. D. Cook proprietor, on the north side of the square, second door east of the Nam National Bank...a most unusual business establishment which handled a little of almost everything in a most fascinating state of disorder and a more unusual proprietor who was in even more of a state of disorder. George Webb told me a story a few years ago about how there was a ledge built into the front of his store, and the village loafers insisted on sitting on said ledge for hours at a time. This irritated Mr. Cook no end, so he took samples of paint out of his stock and painted the ledge every day to keep the visitors away. However, some one swore out a warrant for the old boy; and Judge Webb, who was city attorney at that time, tried and fined him. When Mr. Cook died, he had no known heirs or relatives, but considerable money was found hidden around the store in jars and other receptacles, and ladies of doubtful reputation showed up from all over the country to claim a share of the estate.

HAM'S GROVE SOUTHERN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Ham's Grove Southern Missionary Baptist Church met for the first time in March of 1862 in the Hamsgrove School building.

On March 7, 1867, they were organized into the Hamsgrove United Baptist Church by Elder Calvin Allen and Deacon Anderson Smith. The charter members were as follows: William Richardson, Margaret Richardson, Hester A. Richardson, John L. Richardson, Edward A. Richardson, Moses Scrivner, Joel Scrivner, Samantha J. Scrivner, Benjamin Willis, Newton J. Fuget, Catherine Hale, Jane Boyles and John A. Smith. William Richardson was chosen as clerk pro tem and Bro. Calvin Allen as moderator and paston.

In July of 1867, the Hamsgrove United Baptist Church joined the Fairfield Association.

January 31, 1868, Brothers Willis Keller, William Allen and Owen D. Leach were chosen as the building committee to locate a place to build the church and to choose the material with which to build it. The church was to be located in a grove owned by Willis Keller. This committee was later dismissed and another was not appointed for several years.

In September of 1878, J. Atchisson, N. H. Allen, A. J. Willis, S.M. Farlow, L. D. Smith and George Pucket were appointed as a committee to select a place and solicit funds for the building of a church. In November, 1878, they purchased one acre of land where the present church stands from Ignatius and Lizzie Atchisson. On Sunday, November 16, 1879, the church building was dedicated by Bro. C. Allen.

The first trustees of the church, Silas Farlow, Thomas Atchisson, and H. S. Smith, were elected November 15, 1879. These trustees were to take charge of the church property and see that the notes due were paid. In April, 1883, the trustees purchased an additional 13½ acres of land through the instruction of the church from Ignatius and Lizzie Atchisson. In 1884, ten acres of this land was sold and the money received was applied to the note on the church. January 6, 1886, the trustees reported that the note against the church had been paid in full.

In April, 1900, more land was purchased by the church and a part of it was to be used by and added to the cemetery.

July, 1907, the church changed their membership from the Fairfield Association to the Salem South Association.

July, 1917, the church was incorporated as the Ham's Grove United Baptist Church.

September 28, 1918, H. C. Lovin was ordained for full work as a minister in the work of the Lord.

July 20, 1924, Paul Rich was ordained into the Lord's ministry.

In August, 1924, T. J. Atchisson, L. J. Loving, Henry Pucket, Nora Roane, Rosa Atchisson, Worth Wayland, and Nell Puckett were appointed as the building and finance committee to remodel the church building. This remodeling was completed by December, 1924. At that time another committee was appointed to remodel the seats. This committee included Henry Puckett, T. J. Atchisson, L. J. Logan, and Nell Puckett.

In December, 1924, the Booster Class donated a piano to the church.

In February, 1926, the church authorized the trustees to sell forty-four feet of church ground for cemetery use.

June 6, 1948, the church authorized the trustees to set a price for the cemetery association on another strip of land forty-four feet wide to be taken from the church yard to be used for cemetery purposes.

On May 6, 1951, Jarvis Marshall was ordained into the ministry of the Lord.

The church decided to enlarge and refinish their present basement and make it larger. This work was completed late in 1956.

In November, 1959, Loran Bumpus was ordained into the ministry of the Lord.

The Ham's Grove Missionary Baptist Church purchased a new Baldwin piano in March of 1962. This was dedicated to the Lord's work at their homecoming on June 17, 1962.

On June 3, 1962, Jimmy Fitzjerrells was ordained as a minister so he could act as a full time pastor of the Bell Prairie Baptist Church.

Names of pastors of Ham's Grove Church since its organization in 1867 are: Calvin Allen (1867-1870), E. W. Ovenstnut (1871-1876),

William H. Hay (1876-1878), H. P. Cravens (1878-1880), J. D. Hooker (1881-1885), H. P. Cravens (1885-1886), J. W. Lunda (1886-1887), C. Y. Allen (1887-1888), William Richardson (1889-1892), William E. Pickard (1892-1893), Lewis Keele (1893-1896), J. N. Allen (1896-1897), Wilburn Standifer (1897-1903), Thomas Hunt (1904-1906), Arthur Bell (1906-1907), Charles Hunt (1907-1908), J. N. Allen (1908-1913), W. C. Lockard (1913-1915), John Maulding (1915-1916), C. J. Hamilton (1917-1919), Frank Hooker (1919-1920), C. W. Maulding (1920-1922), Iver Miller (1922-1923), C. W. Maulding (1923-1924), Edd Cravens (1925-1927), Bert Denbo (1926-1927), Seba Marshall (1927-1928), B. E. Page (1928-1932), Bird Green (1932-1933), Ottis Atchisson (1933-1936), Ross Partridge (1936-1937), Everett Apgar (1937-1940), Paul Jolley (1940-1943), Roy Beal (1943-1947), Ethan Acuff (1947-1948), Orval Overturf (1948-1950), H.C. Lovin (1950-1952), Byford King (1952-1953), Douglas Cox (1953-1958), Billie Strong (1958-1959), Roy Beal (1959-).

Following are names of persons who have served as church clerk: Thomas Atchisson (1867-1868), William H. Allen (1869-1882), S. M. Farlow (1882-1900), George B. Marshal (1900-1901), J. A. Smith (1901-1913), S. M. Farlow (1913-1914), Henry Puckett (1914-1918), Nell Puckett (1918-1921), Paul Rich (1921-1923), Richard L. Atchisson (1923-1925), Dona Vangler (1925-1928), Nell Puckett (1928-1936), Ona Bumpus (1936-1940), Salesta Hughey (1940-1956), Eve Baltzell (1956-1957), Velma Story (1957), Betty Bumpus (1957-1958), Alice Grothoff (1958-).

The following have been ordained as deacons by this church: Anderson Smith (1867), Owen S. Leech (1868), L. D. Smith (1878), Silas Farlow (1878), Thomas Atchisson (1884), A. P. Bumpus (1884), Isaac Book (1884), Lewis Leach (1891), Pierce Phillips (1913), Judd Smith (1913), Dall Bumpus (1913), Loren Rich (1919), Charles Richards (1923), North Jayland (1923), Frank Vangler (1937), George Bumpus (1943), Ralph Lynn (1949), C. J. Buck (1949), Raymond Fitzjerrells (1955), Samuel Story (1955), Roy Ham (1955), Charlie Whisenhunt (1955), and Gene Grothoff (1955).

Prepared by Historical Committee: C. J. Buck, Roy Ham, Roy Beal

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PIONEER MEDICINE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

By Andy Hall, M. D., Mt. Vernon, Illinois (Delivered before the Jefferson County Historical Society held in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, March 16, 1948)

The Importance of Medicine in the Welfare of a Nation

The most important function of every community, county, state and nation is to protect the health and lives of its people. Aside from the stability of the government, the honesty of its administration, and the intelligence of the people, the welfare of a nation depends more upon the quality of medical service it receives than any other one thing.

Since the advent of man he has held three different attitudes towards disease. The first period was the period of resignation. Disease was something that was inflicted upon man by an all wise Providence, and to do anything to prevent or to cure it would be blasphemy. Therefore, when illness came, there was nothing to do but accept it and pray for relief. A representative of this period was Job. Having acquired a crop of boils there was nothing he could do but pray his way back into the good graces of his Deity.

The second period was the era of resistence. Some enlightenment came to man as a result of the heroic efforts of science. And it gradually became accepted that the cause of disease was not a supernatural visitation, but that it was due to certain definite causes. Having found this to be true, it was logical that man began to resist disease instead of accepting it in a resigned spirit as he had formerly done. This change of attitude from the supernatural to the scientific gave the world such men as Lord Lister and Louis Pasteur who fought disease and conquered it.

The third epoch, and the one in which we now live, is that of anticipation and prevention. Through the untiring efforts of the medical and the allied professions of dentistry, pharmacy, sanitary engineers and other research workers, we have discovered the causes of many diseases that formerly took their toll by the thousands, the ways of transmission, ways to prevent and the ways to cure. The application of these scientific discoveries to our everyday life has

prolonged a generation of this country to 67 years instead of 30 one hundred years ago. No people in the history of the world have ever received or are now receiving better medical care than are the people of the United States.

Jefferson County has been most fortunate in always having as well qualified physicians as were available anywhere in the state. It is not possible for me to give a detailed biography of all the physicians who have lived and practiced here from time to time, so on this occasion I will limit my discourse to those early physicians who were here prior to 1890, the year I located here.

Many of the early physicians of Jefferson County were not graduates of any medical school. In fact, many of them had not seen a medical school, either inside or out, as there were none at that time in the United States except in the eastern states. The first medical school in Illinois was started in Rock Island in 1848.

The early physicians of Jefferson County were men who had studied under a preceptor for a number of years and received such instructions and information as their preceptors could impart. This equipped them just about as well as if they had attended a medical school in those early days, because practically all the information they could receive at the schools was through lecture courses. These schools had no laboratories, autopsies were not permitted to discover the causes of death, and subjects for disection could only be secured by robbing the newly made graves.

There was no law in Illinois prior to 1877 to prevent any one from practicing medicine who so desired, as no license was required. In 1877, a law was passed in this state preventing anyone from practicing medicine until they had secured a license from the State Board of Health. The requisite for this license was that they should be a graduate of an approved medical school, or should have been actively engaged in the practice of medicine for ten years prior to the passage of this law.

When this law was passed in 1877, fifty-nine years after the admission of the state into the Union, there were 7,400 physicians in active practice in the state. Of this number, 3,000 had never graduated from a medical school, and 490 were practicing under fradulent credentials and assumed names.

Dr. John W. Watson

Dr. John W. Watson was a native of Maryland, born in 1771. He was removed by his parents to Virginia when a small boy and was there reared. He studied medicine and was a graduate of Jefferson Medical College. He married in Virginia in 1811, moved to Bourbon County, Kentucky, and soon after to Pendleton County of the same state. After about ten years, he turned his face westward and arrived in Mt. Vernon in 1821. His journey was overland with a two-horse wagon with his family and all his earthly possessions. He settled on a farm known as Mulberry Hill and spent his first winter in a corncrib. The following year, 1822, he bought land one-half mile north of Mt. Vernon where he remained and managed his farm in connection with his duties of his profession until he died, which occurred June 3, 1845.

He was the first physician in Jefferson County, and his practice extended over a great portion of this part of the state. He often made trips of fifty to one hundred miles long on horseback. In 1828 he was called on a professional visit to Williamson County, and from the long ride his horse became exhausted and died on his arrival at the end of his journey, and he was obliged to borrow a horse to get back to his home.

It is said that quinine used in treating malaria at that time cost him $10.50 an ounce.

As his professional duties did not require all of his time, he was called upon to assess the entire county, for which he received $17.00.

He was the father of Joel F. Watson, the grandfather of Judge Albert, Dr. Walter and Howard Watson, and great-grandfather of Colonel Joel Watson of this city.

Dr. Carter Wilkey

Dr. Carter Wilkey, another one of the early physicians, came to Jefferson County in 1816 with a few emigrants and settled at Moore's Prairie in the deserted cabin of Andrew Moore on the old Goshen Road. Dr. Wilkey was a native of Georgia but removed from that state to Tennessee, where he enlisted in the War of 1812. Being under age, his mother succeeded in getting him out of the army after a few months. He and Robert Cook, who had come to Illinois with him, were connected

with a surveying party, engaged in surveying the lands in this part of the state. Carter Wilkey was the "commissary" -- the huntsman who furnished the game for the use of the surveying party.

At this time many emigrants were passing over the Goshen Road, headed for the "Sangamo country" and would stop at the settlement where the Wilkeys were living. Carter Wilkey engaged in the business of going to Carmi, a distance of forty or fifty miles, with two or three pack horses, and bringing back meal to sell to these "movers", which he sold at $2.00 a bushel. It was a lucrative business for that early day.

He and Ben Wood learned the carpenter's trade, and they at once began to work at that business in partnership. They built many of the first houses in the county. They built the first house on Jordan's Prairie; they also built the Clerk's office in McLeansboro, the first house erected in that town; they built or helped to build the first bridge over Casey's Fork of Muddy Creek.

Wilkey afterwards went to Burlington, Iowa, worked in a drug store, and studied medicine under Dr. Hasbrook of that city. Coming back to Jefferson County, he located in the southeast part of the county on the old Goshen Road near what is now the Sugar Camp Baptist Church house, where he practiced medicine for many years.

He also used to trade in horses and cattle and took many hundreds of them to southern markets.

He lived to a ripe old age. After his death his son, Dr. Henry Wilkey, who had been practicing in Macedonia in Hamilton County, moved to the old Wilkey homestead.

Dr. William M. A. Maxey

Dr. William M. A. Maxey, the son of William T. Maxey, was born in Tennessee and was six years of age when the family moved to Illinois in 1818. He was reared amid the stirring scenes of the pioneer period, and when a young man bought timber from which he split rails at fifty cents per hundred to pay for his tuition for a few months at a subscription school, in which the three fundamentals of "readin', writin' and 'rithmetic" constituted the course of study. Despite this limited intellectual discipline, however, he subsequently became not only one of the best informed men of the community but in

due time read medicine and for more than forty years was one of the most successful physicians in Jefferson County. Medical men being few in those days caused a wide demand for his services, and it is said that his patients were scattered over three counties. In waiting on them he rode many hundred miles and was not infrequently absent from home three weeks while making his professional calls. He also devoted considerable attention to agriculture, and his farm was one of the best improved and most productive of this county. For many years Captain S. T. Maxey, his son, had in his possession the old pair of saddle bags in which his father carried medicines to treat all diseases common to humanity in the early times, the leather being still strong and the contents of the bags the same as when he discontinued his practice, after his long and arduous service.

Dr. Maxey was not only a physician, but was a local minister. He died in Iowa in 1890, at the age of 78.

Dr. William M. A. Maxey was the grandfather of Olen Maxey and Mrs. Fred Upcraft of this city.

Dr. Willoughby Adams

Dr. Willoughby Adams has also been mentioned as one of the early excellent physicians to locate in Jefferson County. He came here in the early Twenties and located first in the small village of Mt. Vernon where he followed his profession.

Later he located in Dodds Township on the old Goshen Road, southeast of Mt. Vernon some four or five miles. His services were valuable, as the ague was a frequent visitor in every household. He was also reputed to be a good surgeon for those days. On one occasion, some men who had visited a grocery at Ham's Grove, where they sold intoxicating liquors, became embroiled in a general fight. One man who had an old hawk-billed knife raked his antagonist across the abdomen cutting through his overcoat, all his clothing and through the abdominal walls until the intestines were protruding. He was carried up to Dr. Adams' home where the doctor dressed him, sewed up the wound and the patient recovered.

His popularity grew in the estimation of the people, and as early as 1841 he was chosen as one of the county commissioners, in which capacity he served with honor and was frequently reelected. In

1849 he was chosen Associate Justice of the County Court. This position he filled for many years. He was the first practicing physician in Dodds Township and was also the first county surveyor. He erected a home on the old Goshen Road near what is now Arnold Cemetery. The chimney was built of stones, and one large stone had engraved on it "1833" which was probably the year it was erected.

Uncle John Mills, who died in Dodds Township a few years ago at the age of 103, married a daughter of Dr. Adams.

At his own request, he was buried a short distance from his residence, where more of his family are sleeping the sleep that knows no waking, in the Arnold Cemetery.

Dr. Lemuel B. Gregory

Dr. Lemuel B. Gregory, born in 1826, was another one of the pioneer physicians in Jefferson County. In Wm. Henry Perrin's History, written in 1883, he refers to Dr. Gregory as the Postmaster General of Loganville, which was a little post office situated northeast of Farrington some two or three miles. Through the influence of Dr. Gregory and John A. Logan, he secured this post office and named it in honor of Senator Logan.

Not only was Dr. Gregory an active and successful physician in that community, but he was an extensive farmer and stock raiser. Through his energy and economy he acquired from 1400 to 1500 acres of good land in Farrington Township. He began life without a dime, and what he acquired he was indebted to no one but himself. He came to Jefferson County when but a mere lad and his busy life was extended through all the hard times, the trials and hardships to which the early settlers were subjected. While collector for his township, he told with delight that he collected nearly the entire revenue of the county in coon skins and deer skins which were a legal tender at that time.

Dr. Gregory attended the first school taught in Farrington Township. The teacher was a Mr. Joseph Price. The house was a pole cabin about sixteen feet square, with slab seats and without any floor except the cold ground. The fire was built in the middle of the room, and around this "council fire" the pioneer boys and girls attained the wisdom and inspiration to fit them for after life. Dr. Gregory wore buckskin breeches and buckskin hunting-shirt, and on his way to school

through the morning rain and snow and dew, his breeches, which were not very well tanned, would get wet and stretch out until they would be down under his feet. But, sitting around the log-heap fire in that old school house, they would get dry and draw up nearly to his knees, thus displaying his "shapely shins," which had stood exposure to the elements until they were about like young scaley-barked hickories.

Farrington Township at that time was a great democratic stronghold but Dr. Gregory was a Republican, and he said that he hoped to make it a Republican township if he lived long enough. Dr. Gregory was quite active in public affairs. He served as supervisor from his township five terms and served as collector one term.

Dr. J. C. Gray

Dr. J. C. Gray practiced in Mt. Vernon during the Thirties. Mrs. Johnson mentions him in her history as having treated one of her children who died. I also find an account of Dr. Gray being called to Marion to treat Rev. Ingersoll, the father of Bob Ingersoll, in his last illness.

Among the other early physicians in Jefferson County there were Dr. William H. Short, Dr. Grethem and Dr. Thomas Johnson, but as they left but few foot-prints on the sands of time, I am unable to give any detailed history of their activities.

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In the early days of Jefferson County the physicians knew of no way to immunize against any disease except smallpox, and all were not vaccinated; hence, that disease prevailed from time to time. No houses were screened against flies and mosquitos; hence, typhoid, malaria and disenteries were prevalent diseases. Diptheria was also a frequent and fatal disease during those days. Hence, the early physicians were very, very busy at times.

In 1848 there was an outbreak of cholrea in the county, and William Frizzel, his wife and two children died from that disease. They lived where the old Spring Garden Road left the Goshen Road, southeast of Mt. Vernon some three miles. There were several other cases of cholrea in Mt. Vernon and surrounding parts of the county at the time, most of which were fatal.

I also note in reading the accounts of these early physicians that practically all of them had to supplement their meagre earnings by farming, stock raising and other lines of business. These physicians also took an active interest in the civic affairs of the county and state, oft times serving in official positions in the county.

There were perhaps other physicians here from time to time of which no record is found. When I came to Jefferson County in 1890, there were thirty-two active physicians in this county. Of that number, all are dead except two: Dr. Fred Patton and myself. (EDITORIAL NOTE: Please remember that the original paper was written by Dr. Hall in 1948). Dr. Patton was one of the best qualified and most active physicians I met when I came to Mt. Vernon. He was friendly, had a good personality and was one of the finest men I ever met. He has been retired for the past twelve or fifteen years, and now lives on Oakland Avenue of this city. He is more than ninety-two years of age, and his mind is as clear as a bell.

I had an opportunity to meet practically all of the physicians who were in active practice here in 1890, and all who have come and gone since. At some future period, I might decide to give a sketch and my estimate of their valuable services to the community.

-- Andy Hall, M. D.

MT. VERNON MOURNS DR. ANDY HALL

(EDITORIAL NOTE: The following is taken almost verbatim from the files of the Mt. Vernon Register-News of November 27, 1961)

Mt. Vernon's beloved Dr. Andy Hall is dead.

Dr. Andy died at 8:30 on Saturday night, November 25, 1961, at Good Samaritan Hospital, a week after he suffered a stroke. Mt. Vernon's famous physician was 96 years, ten months and 17 days of age.

Although Dr. Andy's death was expected, it left the people of the doctor's home town with a feeling of deep loss. Dr. Andy had become as much a part of Mt. Vernon as the public square and the court house. He was without doubt the best-known and most-loved man in the community he served as a doctor and booster for seventy-one years. Dr. Andy was many things to many people in his home town and county--- doctor, friend, philosopher, story teller and most enthusiastic booster.

Dr. Hall started his distinguished career in medicine as a "horse and buggy" doctor in Mt. Vernon shortly after his graduation from Northwestern University Medical School in 1890. He hung out his shingle from a two-room office with a coal stove. The young doctor, who started broke, paid five dollars a month for his office but economized by sleeping there, too, as he couldn't afford to live in a boarding house.

From this small beginning the dedicated young doctor who was born in a log cabin in Hamilton County earned home town, state and national honors which come to few men. He was mayor of his home town ...served his country in three wars...served his state as director of its public health department...was honored as Mt. Vernon's "Man of the Year" in 1946...and as America's "Doctor of the Year" in 1949.

Dr. Andy was born on a farm in Hamilton County in 1855, the son of Hiram Wesley and Julia (McLean) Hall. His father was a veteran of the Mexican War and a colonel in the Civil War.

He got his early education in a log school where he sat on split log seats. He attended McLeansboro High School and Northern Illinois Normal College before enrolling in the Northwestern Medical School.

After he earned his M. D. degree in 1890 he hung out his shingle in Mt. Vernon, then a town of 4000 people; Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County had thirty-two doctors, and it was tough going for a young doctor who was practically broke. But young Dr. Andy had the same vigor, enthusiasm and sense of humor then that he maintained through his lifetime of service. He told the older, established doctors to "send me your scalawags and deadbeats." And the older doctors did. "I did about $20 worth of business my first month," Dr. Hall said. "I don't think I collected half that. Some of the patients I got weren't in the habit of paying a doctor anything." Dr. Hall didn't bother with sending out regular statements then. He usually billed his patients once a year. When a patient died, he just wrote across the record, "Settled by God."

Dr. Andy never turned down a call from patients, even when he had no means of transportation. When a call came in from the country he would hop the first freight train in that direction, hop off when

it got to the point nearest his destination, and walk the rest of the way. He became friendly, as Dr. Andy always did, with the freight train crews and before long he was allowed to ride in the caboose, in style. Some weeks he walked as many as 90 miles. Most of his patients couldn't pay in cash, but many brought him food and meat which helped keep the young doctor going.

In two years the young doctor had built up a good practice and was well known and liked throughout the county. By that time he was prospering to the extent that he could ride on horseback or in a rented rig from the livery stable to calls out in the county. In bad weather he continued to hitch rides on the freight trains.

In his second year in Mt. Vernon he met and fell in love with Anna Glazebrook, a teacher in the high school. On New Year's Day, 1892, they were married.

In those days Dr. Andy served as a doctor, surgeon and dentist. Besides his medicine bottles, he carried a surgical kit which included forceps for extracting teeth. He performed many operations on the kitchen table in Jefferson County homes, using kerosene lamps for light and pressing members of the family into service as nurses and assistants.

Dr. Andy never stopped learning. Even though his practice kept him busy many hours a day he found time to read and study medical journals to keep informed of the latest techniques in surgery, obstretrics and medicine.

In the spring of 1897 a group of Dr. Andy's friends persuaded him to run for mayor -- and he was elected. "Those scalawags and deadbeats must have voted for me," Dr. Hall said. It was his way of expressing his appreciation to his many early-day patients who had come to love and respect him for the care he gave their children whether they could or could not pay.

Dr. Andy was destined to serve his country in three wars -- and the first one cut his term as mayor short. He was the mayor of the town when the news was received of the sinking of the battleship Maine. He promptly volunteered and served in the Spanish-American War as a regimental surgeon with the 9th Illinois Volunteers with the rank of Major. When that war ended, Dr. Andy returned to Mt. Vernon and to his practice.

He was home only five weeks when the War Department asked him to go to the Philippines as a regimental surgeon. Again Dr. Andy responded and served as surgeon in a field hospital at San Isidro. He was later transferred to a post under Brigadier General Fred Grant, son of U. S. Grant. For five months he practiced jungle medicine on the wild east coast of Luzon, then he went on to the Lingayan Gulf. He returned to the United States in 1901.

He resumed his practice here and, a year later, bought an automobile -- the first "horseless carriage" in Jefferson County. "It was almost more trouble than it was worth," Dr. Andy said. "I had to get out to fix something on an average of every ten miles. It woula frighten horses, too, and I had to stop and kill the engine to let them by."

Dr. Andy always figured his community service did not end with his medical practice. He served for eight years as president of the high school board, was active in the affairs of the American Legion, served as departmental surgeon of the United Spanish-American War Veterans, and served as president of the Southern Illinois Medical Society.

When the United States entered World War One, Dr. Andy was fifty-two years old, but he was among the first to volunteer and was in charge of surgical services at Camp Upton, New York. He was mustered out in 1919, after the Armistice was signed.

He was seventy-five years old when World War Two broke out. Too old for active military service, he did his share on the home front, working hard at his profession in the absence of younger doctors away at war and serving as chairman of the medical appeals board of Selective Service.

Dr. Andy was the first downstate Illinoisan to serve as state health chief. The state had its lowest death rate during his 1929-1933 term as Director of the Public Health Department. In four hard-working years Dr. Andy's department virtually wiped out typhoid and dysentery in the state and helped greatly to reduce deaths from smallpox and diphtheria. Through the efforts of Mt. Vernon's doctor, the state legislature created a Sanitary Water Board with powers to stop pollution in Illinois streams.

Dr. Andy took great pride in his efforts during those four years to stop blindness in babies. He wrote a law requiring physicians to drop silver nitrate in babies' eyes at birth. The legislature passed it but the attorney general held that the law was unconstitutional and the governor vetoed it. Upset over the action, Dr. Andy declared, "It's not unconstitutional to save eyesight." He took his case directly to the people, making 500 talks throughout the state to explain the benefit of the law and pleading for the support of the people. The people didn't know much about the constitutional issue. But they loved and respected Dr. Andy and popular support for the measure became overwhelming, with the result that the legislature again adopted the law. This time the governor signed it, and it is still a law in Illinois.

In 1938 Dr. Andy founded the "Fifty Year Club" of the Illinois Medical Society, composed of physicians who have served fifty years or more. He served as chairman of this distinguished group for years and at the time of his death was serving as chairman, having been reappointed in August.

Honors piled up on top of honors for Dr. Andy in the twilight of his life. In 1946 his home town gave him its highest honor, naming him Mt. Vernon's "Man of the Year." On December 6, 1949, he was named America's outstanding general practitioner by the American Medical Society. He was feted in Washington, D. C., and was given a hero's welcome on his return to Mt. Vernon.

On January 8, 1955 -- his 90th birthday -- Dr. Andy was honored at the biggest birthday party ever held in Mt. Vernon. The party was held at the city hall, and the entire community took part. As he stood beside a huge birthday cake and greeted his hundreds of friends he was lauded as Mt. Vernon's "Best known, best loved and most respected citizen." His well-wishers on that day announced plans for a party which will never be held -- on Dr. Andy's 100th birthday.

On his 96th birthday Dr. Andy was "given" a school. Eugene Field School was renamed Dr. Andy Hall School. It was the first time a school has ever been named for a Mt. Vernon citizen.

Four years ago Dr. Andy retired from active practice, but he retained his zest for life and spent much time in his hobbies of fishing, hunting and watching the Mt. Vernon Rams play basketball. He had long been known as Mt. Vernon's No. 1 basketball fan.

In the twilight of his life, although his health was failing, Dr. Andy retained his sharp wit and his sense of humor. On January 8, 1961, on his 96th birthday, he reported he was "feeling fine and planning a fishing trip."

Just seven months before his death, on April 5, 1961, Dr. Andy made a one-hour speech from memory as he related to the county's historical society little known facts about this county's part in the Civil War.

Dr. Andy was a genial host, entertaining friends at his big frame home at 1302 Broadway, where he had resided for years.

He is survived by three doctor sons: Dr. Marshall Hall of Mt. Vernon; Dr. Andy Hall, Jr., of St. Louis; and Dr. Wilford F. Hall of Bridgeport, Conn., a retired major general of the U. S. Air Force; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Dr. Hall was the last of a family of ten children.

A LANDMARK GONE

(By The Editor of the Mt. Vernon Register-News under date of November 27, 1961)

Dr. Andy had become more in Mt. Vernon than a mere individual. Because of his great age and his notable career he had become almost an institution, a sort of landmark, a legend during his lifetime.

Doctor Andy was not an especially brilliant man. But he had something that was far, far more important than mere brilliance. He had integrity and character. He faced all life's problems boldly and resolutely in the good old American tradition. That is why we all loved him.

There is little cause for grief at the end of a life that has been as long and as filled with honors, respect and happiness as that of Doctor Andy. Nevertheless the entire community joins with his devoted family in mourning his passing.

It seems as though a landmark of our time and day has been removed.

The eldest of our tribe is gone. Our grand old man is dead.

HISTORY OF SCHOOLS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

By Sidney Hirons (Delivered before the Southern Illinois Historical Society held in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, March 11, 1947)

Probably the first educational law affecting the schools of Jefferson County was an act enabling Illinois to set apart Section

Sixteen of each township for the use of the inhabitants for the support of schools. The sixteenth section so donated amounted to about a million acres for Illinois and over ten thousand acres for Jefferson County. That was really a great donation for education in that day. But the squatters took possession of the school lands and wasted the timber. The cause of education languished, the settlements were sparse, money was scarce, and there were no professional teachers. Things went on in this manner until in 1825 the Duncan school law, a good one but far in advance of the population, was passed. It declared that the government must extend and encourage the improvement and cultivation of the schools. The people were not ready for a free school system. The law which was the initiation of a free system was repealed after two years, and for years there was very little done about formal education. School houses, school books, teachers and manner of instruction were of the most primitive character. The houses were of the log cabin variety, the books were as rude as the cabins, and the teacher was sometimes the most primitive of all.

The first school ever taught in Jefferson County was in 1820, by Joel Pace, who was then the county clerk. It was taught in a floorless cabin, without ceiling or window. The next school was taught by James Douglas at Old Shiloh. He boarded at Zadok Casey's, and it was then that the Governor got his education from Douglas. That school house burned down, and another one was built. Emory Moore taught the next school at Old Union. Other early teachers in the county included: W. L. Howell, Edward Maxey, E. Knapp and Anderson Booth. It seems that Edward Maxey had charge of the schools in the vicinity of Mt. Vernon from 1825 to 1837. An old contract recorded in one of the histories of the county reads: "I, Edward Maxey, agree to teach a school of spelling, writing, and arithmetic, for five days each week and make up any lost time, according to my best skill and the scholars' several capacities, for four dollars for each scholar--two of which to be paid in money and the rest in pork or young cattle at the expiration of the term." And below were listed the names of the parents signing for one or more scholars, some one-half time scholars, some one and one-half, some two or three.

In 1848 the framers of the Constitution of Illinois said the General Assembly might provide a system of free schools, but it was

several years later before the convention was held which said "The General Assembly shall provide a thorough and efficient system of free schools, whereby all children of the State may receive a good common school education" and compelling all parents to send their children to public schools.

The early course of study consisted of the Testament, the spelling book, the arithmetic and a little writing book. The schools were very loud, for every one "studied out loud" at the same time.

Shiloh Township

The people here took a deep interest in educational matters, and schools were organized very early. Among the early teachers were Joel Pace, who taught the first school in the county in 1820, Edward Maxey, a man named James Douglas of Old Shiloh, E. Knapp, Anderson Booth, Emory Moore at Old Union, and others. The old "Jefferson Academy" was one of the first school houses in the township. Shiloh has never let its interest lag in the cause of education.

Pendleton Township and Moores Prairie

The early churches and schools of these townships were on a par with other portions of the county. The school houses were of the primitive log cabin style, often described in this work, and the first religious meetings were held in the cabins of the people or in summer beneath the spreading trees. The first school house of which we can learn anything was a log cabin on Section 7 of Pendleton Township, and the first teacher was a man named Gibbs.

Rome Township

The educational history of Rome is similar to that of other portions of the county. So much has already been said upon the subject that little can be added here. The first school house in the township was a log cabin, eighteen by eighteen feet, on the land of M. D. Bruce, and is still standing. The first school in it was taught by Mahulda Martin, who came here with her parents from Kentucky. Other early teachers were William Dill, S. Andrews (later a merchant in Centralia), and C. Andrews.

Spring Garden Township

Who taught the first school in what is now Spring Garden Township we cannot say, nor can we give the exact location of the first

school house in the township. The early schools and school houses here were of the usual primitive kind.

Webber Township

Schools were taught in the township as soon as there were children to support them and money to pay teachers. One of the first school houses was a log cabin erected on Section 28, on Black Oak Ridge. Among the early "wielders of the birch" within this primitive temple of learning were Jehu Hodges, Joel Hawkins, John Vick, Brown and Davis. Another school house was built in the north part of the township which was known as the Young School House. Before this house was built a school was taught in the old Council Bluff Church. The Barren School House was perhaps the next one built. It received the name on account of the barren country around it. About the year 1850 the precinct was divided into four school districts. The first school trustees in the township (prior to township organization) were D. B. Davis and C. M. Casey.

Elk Prairie Township

The early educational history of Elk Prairie Township is involved in considerable obscurity, and it is not definitely known now when or by whom the first school was taught, nor where the first pioneer school house was erected.

Farrington Township

Dr. Gregory says the first teacher he went to school to was a Mr. Joseph Price, and he thinks it was the first school in the township. The doctor's description of that school and school house and his attendance at it is quite humorous. The house, he says, was a pole cabin about sixteen feet square, slab seats and without any floor except the ground. The fire was built in the middle of the room, and around this "council fire" the pioneer boys and girls attained the wisdom and inspiration to fit them for after life. Dr. Gregory says he wore buckskin breeches and buckskin hunting-shirt, and on his way to school of a morning through the rain and snow his breeches, which were not very well tanned, would get wet and stretch out until they would be down under his feet. But, sitting around that log-heaped fire in that old school house, they would get dry and would draw up until they were nearly to his knees, thus displaying his "shapely shins," which

had stood exposure to the elements until they were about like young scaley-barked hickories.

The next school teacher after Price was probably Absalom Gregory, an uncle of the Dr. Gregory alluded to above. He was followed by Elder R. T. Camp, a Baptist preacher who, notwithstanding his holy calling, was as illiterate and unlearned as any of the fishermen of Galilee. William Johnson was also an early teacher. Another of the early school houses was built on Horse Creek. It was also a rude early log cabin. The next school house in this portion of the township was built at Farrington.

Grand Prairie Township

The first school, or one of the first, in this township was taught by a man owning the uncommon name of Smith. He boarded with R. Breezem but ran away before his school was finished without even remunerating Mr. Breeze for his board. The first school house built was on the Poston farm, and was a log cabin sixteen feet square, with slab seats, a puncheon floor and a stick chimney.

McClellan Township

The people of McClellan Township took an early interest in educating their children. When the settlements were still very sparse, schools were established. These were rude when compared to our present system, but they were better than no schools at all. The first teacher, or one of the first, in this section was Judge Baugh. He taught in a small log cabin on J. V. Lee's farm. It was of small round logs, about eighteen by twenty feet in dimensions, and had been built by the Christian Church for a temple of worship in 1837. A second school house was built on Silas Rogers' place very early.

Field Township

The first school house in Field Township was built on Big Muddy on the McCrary farm. It was a log cabin about sixteen feet square, and of the usual pioneer pattern with its slab seats, puncheon floor and old-time fireplace.

Casner Township

The old log school house may still be seen here, as well as several neat frame school buildings. We know almost nothing of the first schools in this township.

Dodds Township

The pioneers, as soon as they had each prepared a habitation and enclosed a "patch" of land on which to raise the necessities of life, turned their attention to the erection of a school house. In 1838 the pioneers of Jacksons Precinct, now Dodds Township, erected a log cabin on government land which in 1947 is the property of J. T. Sanders. Some one took the initiatory step by notifying the settlers within a radius of three or four miles that on a certain time at a designated place they would meet for the purpose of erecting a school house. Punctual at the time and place, armed with their "working tools" they assembled and in a short time, considering the disadvantages under which they labored, their work was consummated. The structure would not compare with the excellent temples of learning of the present, but it afforded them an accommodation for their early school. This building was about fourteen feet square. The walls were made of rough round logs from the forests; the chimney was of earth and sticks and the roof of clapboards. Slabs split from trees, the rough edges smoothed with an ax, constituted the floor. The windows were made by cutting out a log and pasting a greased paper over the aperture, which admitted all the light that was afforded the pupils. The furniture consisted of benches made from large puncheons; desks or writing tables were formed by placing against the wall at an angle boards or puncheons. After the cabin was finished and furnished, a school was the next thing in order. Some one of the settlers canvassed the neighborhood and determined how many pupils would attend the school at a stated sum per capita.

It is thought that J. T. Sanders taught the first school in this cabin, and it is not remembered that he went through any examination. The qualifications required in those days were that the teacher possess the physical ability to govern the school and be sufficiently a scholar to teach reading, writing, and ciphering, especially the latter as far as the "double rule of three." Mr. Sanders was very successful. From the beginning of this school, a new impetus was given to education, and each succeeding year the advantages have improved in this direction. About the year 1850 A. C. Johnson taught a school at a private residence in the township, and not far from the same time a

log cabin, similar in construction to the one mentioned above, was built on the line between Section 10 and 11. In this school house Moses Smith and A. C. Johnson taught. As we have already stated, the interest in education began to grow. It is true that there were some who thought education was not essential to farm life, but they were few, and the majority were warmly in favor of schools.

Blissville Township

Blissville Township was not backward in educational matters, and schools were early established and school houses built. One of the first school houses in the township was built near where Eli Gilbert settled. It stood on the farm now owned by Cyrus Gilbert and was of logs sixteen by eighteen feet, the cracks daubed with mud. The first teacher was of the name of Bellis. Another pioneer school house was on the land now oened by R. Gilbert, and A. Welch was one of the early teachers here. A school house was built on the land of G. G. Hoyt, in Grand Prairie, and another on the land owned by the heirs of Reuben Green, Jr.

Bald Hill Township

The early history of education here is but a sample of what it was elsewhere in the early days. It cannot now be said who taught the first school here, or where the first school house was built. There is but one church building in the township, and that is Bald Hill Methodist Episcopal Church near the north line of the township. It is a frame building, and it has a very good membership for a country church.

Mt. Vernon Township

The people of Mt. Vernon patronized schools in Shiloh Township for several years. In 1830-31 a log school house was erected in the northwestern part of the city, about where George Howard's home is on North 14th Street. Scholars came from as far west as Bullock's Prairie to this school. It was built out of sight of town so that the children might study with less disturbance and that neighbors north and west might be accommodated. Mr. Talley was the first teacher, then John Baugh in 1833-34. In 1834-35 Abner Melcher and his daughter Priscilla taught the school. John Downer taught in 1836-37. After this year, the house fell into disuse.

Miss Rand taught a school on the west side of the square over Dr. Park's dwelling. To this school scholars came from six or eight

miles. The next school was taught in the Methodist parsonage by Joshua Grant. Here Miss Elizabeth Bullock also had a summer school. It was in the edge of the woods, and the school was often thrown into much excitement by the appearance of snakes in the room.

It was finally determined to have an academy, and Governon Anderson gave the site off his farm, locating the new school house on Eighth Street, just south of Jordan. In 1839 the legislature incorporated a board of trustees composed of Zadok Casey, Stinson H. Anderson, Joel Pace, J. S. Van Cleve, E. R. Ridgway, Downing Baugh, J. J. Greetham and Angus M. Grant. A building committee was sppointed. They let the contract for the building, furnishing materials, etc., to John and Asa Watson and John Leonard for $350. There were two large school rooms, one below and the other above, a hall and stairway on the north with a small room for apparatus, which was furnished by Governor Casey at a cost of about $100. The first school term was gaught by Lewish Dwight, a Yankee school teacher-preacher, assisted by Miss Evans. While teaching, Dwight married Governor Casey's daughter. Joel F. Watson was assistant the next term. Dwight taught two terms. People were pretty well pleased with him as principal except Sheriff Bowman, father of two extra bad boys, Frank and Jim, one of whom Dwight ventured to correct. Bowman tried to raise an altercation with Dwight on the street and threw a brick at him, inflicting a severe head wound. Bowman was fined $1.00. Dwight died soon after this, although I could find no evidence that it was from the effects of the brick bat, and Joel F. Watson taught the next term. Other later teachers at the academy were Johnson Pierson, Dr. Beach and his wife, Mr. Walbridge and his sister, Miss Bullock, J. J. Bennett, F. B. Tanner, William H. Green, Sr., John H. Pace, and the nororious Bob Ingersoll of infidel fame. These were all prominent people, and the reputation of the old Mt. Vernon Academy was known far and wide. Some of the persons who attended the academy were James F. Pace (the first mayor of Mt. Vernon and also an early Superintendent of Schools), Charles F. Pace (a leading business man), Dr. W. C. Pace and N. C. Pace (bankers of Ashley. N. C. Pace was mayor of Mt. Vernon for several terms), Governor Casey's sons, Drs. Newton Casey and John Casey and Judge Thomas S. Casey, Robert F. Wingate (Attorney General for Missouri), Lewis F. Casey, J. N. Haynie (Adjutant General and colonel), John H. Pace (who served many years in

in various offices here) and Joel F. Watson (who served sixteen years as County Clerk.)

The academy building was never out of debt. It was attached and sold in 1854 to Richard and Barzilla Ragan, and after their death it fell into the hands of Mrs. Rohrer. The lot was finally sold to C.R. Poole and the building was taken down in 1882.

After the fall of the old academy, school was held almost anywhere. In 1851-1, H. T. Pace built a school house on North 10th Street and employed Miss Willard to teach. A Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Hogue and Morton Green taught there afterwards.

When the Methodist Church was built, the three rooms below were for school purposes. Professor J. Leaton, the first stationed preacher, opened school there in 1854. The next year a charter was granted by the legislature to Zadok Casey, J. Leaton, John N. Johnson, John H. Watson, Joel F. Watson and Walter B. Scates, who with three others to be selected by the Southern Illinois conference were to be trustees of the new Mt. Vernon Academy. Professor Leaton was principal for three years. Then followed Professor A. C. Hillman, John H. Pace, Charles E. Robinson and others. There was a steady decline of enthusiasm. The war came, and the school quit.

After the Civil War interest revived. In 1865 the Board of Trustees was reorganized. The services of Rev. Thomas H. Herdman of Greenfield, Ohio, were secured as principal with Mrs. Carrie Smith of Mattoon as assistant. The school numbered from sixty to seventy-five pupils. Miss Sadie K. Sellars replaced Mrs. Smith at the end of the first year. She remained two years and was succeeded by Miss Anna Waggoner, who became Mrs. Gus Strattan.

In 1866 the subject of building a school house was warmly discussed; indeed, it was hot. Several sites were proposed, but it required an effort of the board to get the people to say they wanted any. The effort cost Bogan Satterfield and others their position. But a site was chosen where Franklin School now stands, and a deed was obtained November 6, 1866. After so long a time, a large two-story brick building was erected, costing about $12,000 and having two large rooms above and two below. A Mr. Barbour was employed to teach, but he got cut in an altercation by Duff Green, one of his pupils, and quit before his time was out. E. V. Satterfield finished his term. Then

followed G. W. Johnson in 1869, then Ryder, Forbes, Wilson, Woodward, Courtney, Frohock, Nichols, Barnhart, McCred, Alvis, Reubelt, Van Cleve and Minor.

The classes held in the Methodist Episcopal Church moved into the new public school, but those in the Presbyterian Church remained there until 1878. The contract was made August 3, 1859, with the Presbyterian Church by the directors for use of the room for 99 years for females only. The directors were to finish the house and keep it continually in good repair, and to keep account of all expenses, and the church could annul the contract by refunding the sum expended. In 1878 the church asked for a settlement. The directors presentated a bill of about $555.00. The trustees of the church thought this too much, as noth ing had been done but lathing and plastering the room, running a partitition and putting up two cheap privies and fencing the lots. They especially kicked at $50 and $60 for the privies. They also claimed to have kept up the repairs. They wanted something for the seats that had been in the room at first but were now gone. A hot war was brewing but was finally compromised by the trustees allowing the directors to use the rooms for one more term and paying $50. Then the school was consolidated. In 1881 an addition 80 feet long was erected in order to accommodate the sixty or seventy pupils.

This first building was destroyed by the cyclone that struck Mt. Vernon in 1888, but it was speedily rebuilt larger and better. As the town grew another school house was built on the west side of town, where Andy Hall School now stands, and one on the south now called the Edison. In the summer of 1914, the Lincoln and Mann Schools were built. The Washington School was first begun in the year 1894 in the C.M.E. Church on Grand Avenue. Two years later it was moved to a building on Twelfth and Vaught Street where it remained for two years. In 1900 the school was moved to its present location. (EDITORIAL NOTE: The Washington School is not now used as a school building.) The Casey Junior High School was completed in November of 1937.

Located in Mt. Vernon we also have the Mt. Vernon Township High School, which serves children from all over the county. The Mt. Vernon High School is the successor of the Mt. Vernon City High School which was held at the Franklin School from 1884 to 1905. The first

Board of Education for the Township High School was elected in 1903. It consisted of Dr. Earl Green, Rufus Grant, G. W. Howard, Dr. J. W. Hamilton, and L. L. Emmerson. Classwork did not begin in the new high school building until September, 1905. The school plant consisted of what is now known as Building B. That first year the faculty consisted of the principal and six teachers. The total enrollment was 162. The principal of the high school until 1915 was James M. Dickson. His faculty in 1905 consisted of Lillian Barton (German and mathematics teacher), Ida Bond (English), Silas Echols (history), Lillian Gubelman (Latin), Mary Maxwell (mathematics), and Renzo Muckelroy (science.). Mr. Echols was the principal beginning in 1915. The total number of graduates from the old City High School over the period from 1884 to 1905 totaled 188. The smallest class to graduate from the Mt. Vernon Township High School was the first in 1906, when there were only 13.

Building B was built in 1905. Building C was completed in 1921. Buildings A, D and E were added in 1936-1937.

Other Jefferson County High Schools

The other high schools that have been established in Jefferson County are Bonnie, Bluford, Belle Rive, Opdyke, Dix, Woodlawn, Waltonville, Nason, Ina and Shields. The Dix school was closed in the spring of 1943 at the close of that year's term. The Shields school has been closed previously, but had been operating a two-year high school the last few years until the fall of 1946. Nason was first a two-year high school, and then it changed to a three-year school. It has been closed since 1934-35.

The Woodlawn High School began as a two-year high school in 1919. It was later changed to a three-year h ight school, and operated as such until 1940 when it became a four year community high school.

The first high school work was introduced in Bluford in 1920. Classes met in the upstairs room in a building that stood near the present Oathout's Store. Later it was held in an upstairs room of the Elton Cornwell Store and still later at the Wollitz residence. After that, classes met in the old grade school building which is now (1947) used for the school lunch room for both grade and high school. During most of this time only two years of work was offered. After repeated attempts to organize a four-year high school district at

Bluford, finally in 1940 an election was held authorizing the purchase of a high school site, the erection of a new modern building and the organization of a four-year high school. Work was begun under the plan of the W.P.A. For more than a year nothing was done on the building. Finally the school board was able to get a local man, Mr. Keith Lowry, to take over the work as construction foreman, and the building was completed in 1945-46. Due to shortage of equipment and teachers the school was not at first equipped for home economics.

The Waltonville Community High School was organized in 1923. The school was granted full recognition accredited by the University of Illinois in 1931. Prior to that time they had received only probationary recognition. Among the graduates so far there have been 47 qualified as school teachers (which includes me), two registered nurses, two dieticians and one doctor. Members of the first Board of Education elected were John A. Dycus, Frank Bean, Wm. S. Kirkpatrick, Isaac L. Quinn and John M. Shurtz, who is my grandfather. (NOTE: Mr. Hirons is now serving as principal of this fine high school.)

The Belle Rive High School began as a two-year high school, alternating the 9th and 10th grades. The school started when Belle Rive was first a village. By the way, I am told that "Belle Reeve" is really the correct pronunciation and spelling of the town, which was the name of the two founders -- one was named Belle and the other Reeve.

The Non-High School District of Jefferson County was first voted upon the spring of 1918 at the end of the term of Charles Lee, County Superintendent of Schools from 1914 to 1918. Most of the outlying high schools began after that date. The Non-High District of the county comprises all territory which is not included in a four-year high school district. Students living in such territories can attend any high school in the State of Illinois, and his tuition will be paid by the Non-High School District.

There are records back to 1912 showing that Opdyke offered high school work in connection with the grade school. In the fall of 1912, there were four pupils in the 9th grade. In the school year 1913-14, the 10th year was offered. The 9th and 10th years were alternated until 1921, when the present four-year school was voted in. High school was held for a little more than a year in the old Opdyke mill

while the building was being erected. Miss Letta Bristol was principal for those two years. School was begun in the present building in the early part of 1923. Opdyke was the first four-year school in Jefferson County outside the city of Mt. Vernon. In its early history it drew pupils from the three-year high schools of Dahlgren, Belle Rive, Bluford, Bonnie and even Woodlawn. The enrollment up until 1940 was from 50 to 100. It was first recognized as a four-year school by the University of Illinois in 1923.

I would like to mention an interesting item I have come across. In the year of 1906 Mr. Arthur Summers, County Superintendent, made a survey of the textbooks in use in the county and found there were twelve different texts in grammar in use, seven histories, six readers, eight geographies, six arithmetics, five civics, and ten different spellers, with all their various editions and revisions, many of them dating back over fifty years. Under Mr. Summers' supervision a county uniformity of textbooks was established in 1910. His list was composed of the Baldwin Readers, White's Arithmetic, Hunt's Spellers, Montgomery's History, Reed's Language, Spencer's Writing, Overton's Physiology, and Schwinn and Stevenson's Civics. Mr. Summers also began the plan of alternating the four upper grades' work each year. One year the fifth and seventh years' work was taught and the next year the sixth and eighth. Mr. Summers also began a plan in which the teachers were given an outline of work to supplement the State Course of Study.

Downing Baugh was the first School Commissioner of whom we have any account. The following list is the order of the terms which the various men served. (I could find no record when the office was first filled by election.) Downing Baugh (appointed 1836), J. R. Satterfield (appointed 1845), J. H. Pace (appointed 1847), W. H. Lynch (1850), J. H. Pace (1851), John R. P. Hicks (1859), J. M. Pace (1861 -- changed from the title of school commissioner to County Superintendent of Schools), G. W. Johnson (1869), J. D. Williams (1873), Wm. T. Sumner (1886), Oscar O. Stitch (1894), James Hill (1898), Arthur E. Summers (1906), Charles Lee (1914), William Miner (1918), Charles Mossberger (1922), Sidney Parker (1922), Raymond Lovin (1926), Rose Janssen (1926), Raymond Lovin (1930), Sidney S. Hirons (1942).

HORROR IN MT. VERNON

(Taken from an article in the Mt. Vernon Register-News, written by Addison Hapeman)

Mt. Vernon has now had other tornadoes and the big blow of February 19, 1888, is no longer the epitome of catastrophe. But to those who lived through that twister of so many years ago, the blast of wind that ripped through the town on a Sunday evening was always THE tornado.

That particular February day had been warm and muggy. "Hits a weather breeder," the oldtimers said. "Iffen it wasn't still winter it'd be cyclone weather. Hit'll likely bring a blizzard afore it's through." Later events proved them correct on both counts.

On that Sunday afternoon Jim Whitsell and one of his friends, a Negro boy named Alec Lane, were sitting in the house of Matt Rough, with Matt and his wife. Both boys were about eleven years old, and they were school mates at the big Franklin School. Jim had a spelling book and was giving out words for the other boy to spell. They had been amusing themselves with a two-boy spelling bee for some time.

This house of Matt's stood on one of the first hills on the east side of Casey Creek, northeast of town. To the north of the house was an old orchard, somewhat grown up to persimmon sprouts. South of the house were some other buildings, and a small "cave" or cellar, used for storing apples and potatoes.

It had rained enough the day before that Casey Creek was in flood, the water reaching from hill to hill. This flood was the reason for Jim and Alec being on their own side of the creek. Had it not been for the high water, they would have spent the day with the Williams boys and their other cronies in town; as it was, they had spent part of the morning exchanging shouted comments across the flooded creek bottom.

In the middle of the spelling match the people sitting in the house became aware of an odd sound. It was something like the sound of a high wind blowing through the big woods, but it was much louder and was higher pitched. Startled, they looked out, and at the base of a rolling black cloud, they saw "the whole town coming right at them."

"Cyclone!" yelled Matt. "You boys get out and grab a sprout. Come on, old woman." "Matthew," cried his wife in a shocked voice. "Matthew, you going to run off and leave me?" Out of the yard came the shouted answer: "If you don't hurry, I sure as hell am."

Mrs. Rough ran out to the root cellar and slid inside. Matt, who was a big man, started down head first. Part way down, his shoulders wedged in the narrow opening, and there he stuck. Meanwhile, Jim had tucked his spelling book under one arm, and he and Alec had dashed out through the sloppy mud of the orchard, where they dropped flat on the ground and each grabbed a persimmon sprout in both hands.

Almost instantly the tornado struck them. They were flapped up and down like a woman snaps a dish towel. Mud and assorted debris clogged their noses and peppered their faces. Water struck them with the force of a fiew house, and all the time they were being whipped up and down against the soggy earth.

By the time the boys realized what was happening, the twister had moved on, leaving only the torrents of rain. This continued for some time, and then it, too, abated. The boys were able to struggle to their feet. Jim still had the spelling book clamped under his arm.

Through the diminishing rain he looked toward the town. It presented a strange aspect. His school, on the extreme edge of town, had always been most noticeable. Now it was nowhere to be seen; the courthouse was gone, and he apparently could see right through the town.

Closer at hand was another strange sight. The muddy flood waters of the creek now carried almost everything one could imagine in the way of human possessions: furniture, mattresses, feather beds, clothing, books, buggies, wagons and dead animals. Fence rails and tree tops helped to cover the surface of the water.

They all got to the stricken town as soon as they could get a way across the flooded bottom. When they arrived in town, scenes of horror unfolded before them. People were wandering dazedly in the

streets, calling for the rest of their family. Their cries mingled with the screams of the wounded in the wreckage.

Fires were breaking out all over town from the overturned stoves in the wrecked houses, and the firemen could do little about it. The wells and cisterns were soon pumped dry, and then the flames had their own way.

Crews Store (present Mammoth site) was one of the buildings to catch fire. Trapped in the wreckage, with a large beam across his upper legs, was a man named Murray. When he was discovered, the heat was already so intense that rescuers could not reach him, and he begged piteously for some one to shoot him and so save him from the fire. This no one would do, and he burned to death.

The next few days were busy ones, even for the boys. Every one worked at cleaning up the rubble. Three days after the storm some one was digging in the pile of debris that marked the site of the Franklin School and discovered a body there. It was that of George Person, a Negro preacher who served as janitor.

Jim Whitsell was hired as a guard for the Nise Clothing Store's stock, which was exposed to looters. This paid him fifty cents a day, but the job didn't last long. In about a week school was opened again.

Neighborliness reached into every part of frontier life. A house or barn raising, beating off an Indian attack, a husking bee, a log rolling; it was all the same. The neighbors came in and the job was done.

And so it was when the tornadoes hit Mt. Vernon in the season when one could more reasonably expect snow and reindeer. To the farmers who loaded up chainsaws and axes and started out before dawn on their long drive, Mt. Vernon was just a name on the road map. To the Plain People, the Mennonites and the Amish, it was a call to obey the precept "Love thy neighbor." To both of them it was the instinctive reply of any farmer to the call -- "Your neighbor needs help."

While these men were clearing up the tangle of Mt. Vernon, the people of rural Jefferson County were taking care of their own. Several miles out of town, one of the twisters that seemed to infest that day had slammed across the Richview Road. As it hovered over the

farmstead of Alfred Koy, it picked the barn off the cows and left them in the rain. It shredded the other outbuildings, laid the house open like a cut watermelon, and twisted it off the foundation. Then it knocked down a few of the yard trees and went churning on.

Within minutes the neighbors were there. The part of the roof that remained was picked like a poorly scalded chicken, but the furniture was moved into the driest looking part, and the family was sheltered elsewhere for the night.

The next day the yard was full of helpers. All of the household goods was moved to a vacant house which had been lightly touched by the wind. The floor coverings were put down, the furniture and stoves moved in, and the roof patched. The work was finished in the rain, the first of four inches that fell in the next few days.

Nine days later the neighbors moved in again. This time it was a clean-up job, the first step in rebuilding. Some forty to fifty men spent the day picking up rubbish, dismantling sections of buildings that were strewn about, and salvaging such parts of the house as were reusable. Four chain saws converted the fallen shade trees into firewood.

After dinner, some of the men went to the farm woodlot to cut logs to be hauled to a local sawmill. There they would be sawed into material for a new house. And it is ironic: the storm which destroyed the old house helped these neighbors by blowing down some of the trees which went into the new.

The story of Al Koy is only one of many across the county and the state. It is a perfect example of the heritage left us by the pioneers. And it is very comforting to know that even now when disaster strikes, a neighbor will soon be there.

THE HOLBROOK LAND IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

(Taken from an article written in the Mt. Vernon Register-News by Addison Hapeman.)

Until a few years ago Jefferson County had hundreds of acres of land with no visible owner. The taxes were paid on it every year, and one heard of rumors of some people in Philadelphia who owned it,

but for all practical purposes it was public domain -- and the public used it as if it was.

If you wanted a few saw logs or a load of mine props or railroad ties, or a place to set up a still or to dig a few dollars worth of roots, you went to this land. You and your friends from town hunted and trapped on it; and if your land adjoined it and you needed more pasture, you fenced in a few acres of it. Or you built a log house on it and cleared a little patch. This land fed and clothed countless families, and with its passing went a way of life in this county. It was the Macalester and Markoe, or (as it was more commonly known) the Holbrook land.

Back in 1856 a man named Bissell filed entry on 480 acres of the land still open to homestead in Grand Prairie Township. Something went wrong, and the land reverted to the federal government. In 1857 Charles Macalester and James Markoe bought 320 acres of the Bissell land directly from the Land Office, receiving deeds signed by the President, James Buchanan. No mention is made of the price paid for this land.

That same year, a group of men and their wives, forty-four persons all told, formed a company in Philadelphia. It was the Illinois Land Company, and the stockholders subscribed a total of $80,500 "to be used by William H. Bissell for the purchase of lands in the State of Illinois." Macalester and Markoe were the trustees and Alexander Bacon was the broker for the little company -- again there is no price mentioned or amount of land bought.

Macalester died in 1873 and Markoe in 1876. Two other trustees were elected to serve in their places, and they in turn were replaced in 1890, when Albert P. Gerhard and Sidney Keith were elected. Whether these two were better businessmen than their predecessors or whether the need for land was becoming greater, we do not know; but between 1890 and 1920 the company sold enough "land and property to enable them to make 56 divisions of dividends totalling 262% on the investment."

That must have ended the land boom for the company. The land they now had left was hilly and rough, and the timber on it had been cut over again and again. Perhaps they got paid for the best of the virgin timber, but most of the trees went to make a living for

the tie-hackers and prop cutters who squatted so thickly on the land that it is hard to find forty acres of it that has not had at least one log cabin on it. As late as 1936 there was quite a settlement on this land in Grand Prairie.

In 1926 the shareholders were called upon to contribute $20.00 a share to enable the trustees to pay the taxes on the land they still owned in Jefferson, Franklin and Perry Counties. In April of 1928 a contribution of $15.00 was called for, and in May of the same year another bite of $40.00 a share was put on the stockholders. May, 1937, brought a call for another $20.00. The stock at that time was worth $500.00 a share.

By 1938 the company still owned, in fee simple, 1302 acres in Casner Township, 420 acres in Grand Prairie, and 145 acres in Bald Hill. They also owned the mineral right under 580 acres in Casner, 60 acres in Grand Prairie, and 600 acres in Bald Hill. On January 24, 1938, eighty-one years after it was founded, the Illinois Land Company sold all its Jefferson County holdings to B. K. Leach of St. Louis. The land, owned "in fee," sold for ten dollars an acre, and the mineral rights for five dollars. The total amount of the sale amounted to $23,270.30.

In all the years prior to this the people had used this land as their own, and had gone their untroubled ways. Of course, there was an overseer most of the time who came around once in a long while to see that no one actually ran off with the land. There was a custodian named Shirley and another named Holbrook. He was the last and was the reason that the tract eventually became spoken of as "Holbrook's land."

Now the halycon days were ended, and there were vague rumors of a change of ownership; then a man came around talking about waivers and quitclaim deeds and asked, "How long have you lived here, and did you ever pay taxes on this land?" The squatters began to look around for some place to go, and there was a great moving and shifting about.

On January 10, 1939, all of the land and mineral rights in Jefferson County which Leach had bought from the Illinois Land Company was sold to the Casner Oil and Gas Company. They wanted only the mineral rights, and so they had their local representative, Reinhard Germann, sell the surface for five dollars an acre. Some of the squatters had to be evicted so as to gain clear title to the land,

and one non-fatal shooting resulted from the new owners' attempt to gain possession of his purchase.

In a short time all of the land was sold, most of it going to the farmers whose land joined it. Some of them today are still wondering why they bought it. The valuation on the tax books has risen over 400%, with no improvement of the brush covered hills and hollows; and, contrary to official belief, within the last year two separate tracts of this land have changed hands at the same old price: five dollars an acre.

JEFFERSON COUNTY MEN FOUGHT ON BOTH SIDES IN THE CIVIL WAR

(This is part of the text of an address given to the Jefferson County Historical Society and Mt. Vernon teachers the afternoon of April 5, 1961, and printed in the Mt. Vernon Register-News the next day. The paper was delivered at the high school library after a student choir sang songs of a hundred years ago: "Dixie," "Tenting Tonight," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic.")

The morning of the Sabbath, April 14, 1861, brought to the principal cities of the Union the announcement that the flag had been struck, and that, overborne by superior strength, Major Anderson had surrendered Fort Sumter.....

On Monday, April 15th, President Lincoln issued his first proclamation, calling forth the militia of the Union states to the number of 75,000, and appealing to all loyal people to aid in the effort to maintain the existence of the national union. The northern states responded to every call made for troops during the war. Even the border slave states of Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland furnished more troops for the Union than for the Confederate Army....

The southern parts of the states of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio had been populated largely by people from the Southern states. While some had come from those states to escape the influence of slavery, many living here had relatives and friends still living in the South and were sympathetic with the secessionists.

However, so far as I can learn, only two companies were actually organized in Southern Illinois which joined the Confederate

Army. One of these was organized in Jefferson County in 1861 by John Bagwell, ex-sheriff of the county. He took about forty men and joined the Confederates. He was killed in the Battle of Shiloh, as were a number of his men. Robert Carpenter, one of his company, was severely wounded -- shot through the liver -- and captured by the Union Army at Shiloh. He was sent to Jefferson Barracks, where he recovered and was paroled and sent back to his home at Rome (Dix). He had a belly full of war and did not want to be exchanged.....

There was considerable sentiment in favor of Southern Illinois seceding, and this was expressed openly after Fort Sumter fell. On April 15, 1861, a meeting was held in Marion at which a set of resolutions was prepared and passed. These expressed the sympathy of this section of Illinois with the interests of the Southern states, demanded that all Federal troops in Southern forts be withdrawn and the independence of the Southern Confederacy be acknowledged. It was further resolved that in the interest of the citizens of Southern Illinois a division of the state be accomplished so that this part could attach itself to the Southern Confederacy.....

Some of the local Confederate sympathizers became members of an organization known as the "Knights of the Golden Circle," generally referred to in the North as "Copperheads." Some of its objectives were to discourage enlistments in the Union Army, to interfere with the furnishing of supplies, and to protect deserters.

My father, who was a member of the 40th Illinois Regiment, had left my mother at home with six children, the oldest not yet twelve years old. From time to time an old man who was supposed to be one of the ringleaders of the Knights of the Golden Circle would drive by the farm and stop and holler, "Hello! Well, I understand the 40th has been in a big battle. A lot of them were killed and some were captured and sent to prison!"

Of course, that would alarm my mother, and she would send one of the children over to get the facts from a neighbor who had two sons in the army and usually knew what was going on. She would usually learn that there had really been no word of a battle.....

Practically all of the counties of Southern Illinois furnished (to the Union Army) more men than their quotas called for,

except Jefferson County. With a quota of 1307, and 938 volunteers, it was deficient by 374, making it necessary to draft some. Of our neighboring counties, Marion to our north had 336 men in excess of its quota; Franklin to the south had a surplus of 270; Hamilton, 260; Wayne, 435; Perry, 344; and White, 769.

The average age of those who served in the Civil War was nineteen years and six months. 800,000 were seventeen years old. In contrast, the average age of soldiers in the First World War was twenty-five.

My near neighbor when I came to Mt. Vernon was Ed Watson. He was only about thirteen years old when the war began, but he was large for his age and his associates were much older than him and they volunteered. By 1864 he was old enough to enlist and he started to Springfield with some other men who were also going to volunteer. At night they camped by the Sangamon River this side of Springfield. That evening a load of men who had been drafted from Jefferson County camped at the same place. In that number was a man named Buck Johnson who was anxious to hire a substitute to replace him in the army. Someone told him that Ed Watson was going to volunteer the next morning, so Buck contacted him and paid him thirteen hundred dollars to go as his substitute.

Next morning they went on to Springfield, and Ed was sworn in as Buck's substitute. He was put on the train and sent to Nashville, Tennessee, arriving there the next morning. There he was given a uniform, gun and other equipment and assigned to one of the regiments in General Thomas' front line! The next morning Thomas' army attacked General Hood's army, and Ed's regiment was in the assaulting column and in the thick of the battle for three days. Hood's army was destroyed and it was not long until the war was over. Ed returned home without having received a scratch, but he had had a remarkable experience.

Because Secretary Floyd, during Buchanan's administration, had sent so much of the war material to the South, it was some time before the North could put a large fighting force into the field. However, after four years of bloody conflict the Southern armies were exhausted, both in supplies and men. Toward the last the South conscripted men from the ages of fourteen to sixty. With the Navy blockading their

ports and the Union preponderance of soldiers, equipment and food supplies, General Lee had little choice but to surrender, which he did at Appamattox, Virginia. His army had been reduced from 100,000 to 28,000 men and they had been living for days on parched corn. A few days later General Joe Johnston's army surrendered to Sherman near Raleigh, North Carolina, which practically ended the war.

The antipathy between the North and the South continued for many years.

I remember going as a small boy with my parents to Benton in the fall of 1868 to attend a Republican rally. General Grant was running for his first term as president. There was a torchlight parade at night, and as the torchbearers were coming up the street, two men in a buggy, smartalecks who were either drunk or crazy, attempted to drive their horses through the marching line, yelling, "Hurrah for Jeff Davis!" A gun was fired and one of the men fell out of the buggy dead, and the other whipped the horses and got away. No one was ever convicted of that crime, if it was a crime!

Thirty years later, in 1896, I attended a political rally in Fairfield during the McKinley campaign. Two Union veterans, General Sickles and Gen. O. O. Howard, both of whom had been wounded at Gettysburg, spoke from a flat car at the back of a train. When they had finished some cheers for Jeff Davis were heard in the crowd. They probably came from some of the Knights of the Golden Circle.

I think the Spanish American War did more to eradicate this antipathy than any one other thing. It was fought by the sons of the men who had worn the blue and the sons of the men who had worn the gray. President McKinley exercised good judgment in appointing a number of men who had been conspicuously good officers in the Confederate Army as officers in the Spanish American War. One of these, Fitzhugh Lee, was the commander of the Seventh Corps, of which several Illinois regiments were a part. Another, Henry M. Douglas, who had been an engineer on General Lee's staff, was our brigade commander. The Fourth and Ninth Illinois regiments were in the same brigade with the Second, South Carolina. While serving in the Philippine Islands during the Insurrection, I met General Joe Wheeler who had been an active cavalry officer in the Confederate Army.

Had rebellion and treason succeeded in planting two nations upon our soil -- one with its capital at Washington and the other at Richmond -- one free and the other slave -- the inevitable history of our country would have been that of perpetual conflict and disorder. Domestic difficulties and foreign intrigue, fattening upon the inflammable subject of human slavery, would have made of us the breeding ground of strife and conflict instead of a monumental power for world peace and tranquility.

INFORMAL STUDY CLUB

In February, 1937, a group of ten women who shared a bond of literary interests organized the Informal Study Club. This has been an active cultural and social organization in Mt. Vernon since its beginning. It meets twice a month, at which time the members -- now twenty-one in number -- review and discuss good books.

The original membership includes the following names: Mrs. Waller Buckham, Mrs. Lowell Dearinger, Mrs. Herman DeWitt, Mrs. Lorenzo Eddy, Mrs. John Fiedler, Mrs. Edward Hill, Mrs. M. M. Lumbattis, Mrs. A. G. Packwood, Mrs. Madge Schneider, Mrs. Ray Schweinfurth; and the present membership consists of Mrs. Joe Frank Allen, Mrs. Ray Blades, Mrs. C. Dale Carpenter, Mrs. H. R. Cawood, Mrs. J. C. Covington, Mrs. Glenn Dare, Mrs. John D. Davis, Mrs. L. A. Dearinger, Mrs. Lloyd DeWitt, Mrs. Harry Gearhart, Mrs. Clyde Hawkins, Mrs. Edward Hill, Mrs. H. J. Hutchins, Mrs. Robert M. Krebs, Mrs. Donald Lee, Mrs. M. M. Lumbattis, Mrs. G. E. Moore, Mrs. Ray Schweinfurth, Mrs. Paul Whitney, Sr., and Mrs. D. C. Wilson.

By Mrs. Edward Hill
912 Taylor
Mt. Vernon, Ill.

THE JOHNSON FAMILY

As is shown elsewhere in this volume, there were several families that migrated to the Mt. Vernon area and were the true pioneers of the King City area. One of those pioneering families was the Johnson family. They were among the first to settle in what was, shortly after their coming here, to be Jefferson County.

Three brothers came from Virginia by way of Tennessee to settle here. Of the three, James Johnson was the first to arrive in this county. As mentioned in the short history of the Maxey family, James Johnson came in the spring of 1818. His brother Lewis came the following year, and their brother John came in 1834. James was the son-in-law of William Maxey and came with the colony that arrived in Moores Prairie a few months before Illinois was admitted as a state.

Lewis Johnson was married to a widow, a Mrs. Winn, formerly a Miss Stone, and they had nine children. Lewis Johnson was licensed to preach in Tennessee the year that the War of 1812 began. He was ordained a deacon in Tennessee by a Bishop Roberts in 1816, and was made an elder by the same bishop in Illinois in 1827. He was a pious person, and it is reported that he held family prayers three times each day for more than half a century. Aside from his work in the ministry, it is presumed he was a farmer. He died in January, 1857 at the age of eighty years, and his wife died in December of that year at the age of eighty-three years. Children of Lewis Johnson: Milly, Anna, Lucy, James E., John T., Nicholas S., Elizabeth, Nancy and Susan.

James Johnson was born in Louisa County, Virginia, in 1778, the third year of the Revolutionary War. He was married to Clarissa Maxey in Tennessee, and James and Clarissa were members of the party that came to Illinois and first settled in the southeast part of what was later Jefferson County. They were the parents of sixteen children, five of whom were born in Tennessee. His wife died in 1847, twenty-nine years after they settled in Jefferson County. James later married a Mrs. Livingston. He spent the remainder of his life in the vicinity of Mt. Vernon and passed away in 1860 at the age of eighty-two. The date of the death of his second wife is not known. The children of James Johnson included: John N. (married Sarah Hobbs); Lewis (married Patsy Hobbs); Billy Fletcher (married Cretia Hobbs);

Thomas (married Sarah Frost), George; Abe (married Francis Criswell); Herbert (died eight years of age); Henry (drowned at two or three years of age); Emily (married Anthony White), Betsey (married John R. Satterfield); Malinda (married Owen Ward); Jane (married Robert Armour); Katie (married John Waite); Sallie (married James Burge), Clarissa and Madonna.

Dr. John N. Johnson was well known in Mt. Vernon. In addition to his medical practice, he was well known as a progressive business man. Dr. Johnson erected several buildings including the City Hotel, that was commonly known as the Johnson House.

John Johnson was the younger brother of James and Lewis Johnson. He did not come to Illinois for a number of years after his older brothers came and settled. He arrived in Jefferson County in 1834, and as far as is known maintained his residence in the Mt. Vernon area until his death in 1858. John and Lewis Johnson were ministers of the Methodist faith. John traveled and preached for a quarter of a century in Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee; he was rated as a forceful speaker and possessed an excellent vocabulary. He demonstrated great ability in debate, and held the reputation of being one of the most capable ministers in the Methodist Conference. He died in Mt. Vernon at the age of seventy-five years. Children of John Johnson included: Dr. T. B. Johnson, Mrs. Blackford Casey, J. Fletcher, Washington S., Wesley, and Adam C. One son and a daughter died in childhood (names unknown).

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PIONEER ASSOCIATION

(Taken from an article in the Mt. Vernon Register-News written by L. A. Dearinger)

On April 8, 1872, a preliminary meeting was called in Mt. Vernon to consider the organization of a pioneer association, "Dr. W. D. Green in the chair, A. Clarke Johnson, secretary." On May 8 and June 4 other meetings were held, and on June 7, 1872, was held the first annual meeting of the Jefferson County, Illinois, Pioneer Association, at which time a permanent staff of officers was elected as follows: President, John G. D. Maxey; Vice-President, John T. Johnson; Secretary,

James M. Pace; Assistant Secretary, Clinton M. Casey; Treasurer, Harvey T. Pace.

Membership in the association was limited to those citizens who had lived in the Jefferson County area fifty years or more. Later the restriction was changed to twenty years. Fifty-seven became members at the first meeting.

For the first meeting several committees were formed, one being of ladies who were to provide flowers and decorations. A general invitation was extended -- "All persons, irrespective of date of citizenship, are invited to come prepared with provisions for an old style picnic dinner, for themselves, and such other persons as they may desire to invite to participate with them."

The picnic was held at the old Fair Grounds southeast of Mt. Vernon. Services began at twelve noon, June 7, 1872. The program opened with a reading of Psalm LXV and part of Psalm LXVI. Following the reading of the Psalms, the assembly sang the hymn, "From all who dwell below the skies." (Later, another hymn became the traditional opening hymn -- "And we are yet alive,") Prayer was offered by John T. Johnson.

Governor Dougherty missed the first meeting, although he did speak at the third annual meeting, June 6, 1874. Substituting for the absent speaker in 1872, Dr. A. Clarke Johnson gave the principal address. The Rev. Josea Foster and Dr. Wm. M. A. Maxey also spoke.

At this first meeting the oldest citizen-member of the Association was Dr. Carter Wilkey, who immigrated to Illinois in 1814. The oldest native of Jefferson County present was Thomas Hicks, born April 29, 1817. Thomas Hicks was the second white child to be born in this area. The first white child born in the Jefferson County area died in infancy. "The name, if any, was unknown." The father was "Clark Casey, a noted backwoodsman, and famed as a hunter of deer, panthers, and bears," who later moved to southwest Missouri.

Upon adjournment, the proper committee was ordered to have the proceedings published in the "News," "Statesman," and "Free Press."

The most ambitious project undertaken by the Pioneer Association was "The Grand Centennial Celebration," which was held in Mt. Vernon on July 4, 1876. In spite of the handicap of an early and

[illegible] Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Charles A. Conway Treasurer, Harvey T. Hunt.

Membership in the association was limited to those citizens who had lived in the Tuolumne County over fifty years or more. Later the membership was changed to twenty years. Fifty-seven became members at the first meeting.

For the first meeting several committees were formed, one being of ladies who were to provide places and decorations. A general invitation was extended — "All persons, irrespective of date of citizenship, are invited to come prepared with provisions for an old style picnic dinner, for themselves, and such other persons as they may choose to invite to participate with them."

The picnic was held at the old Tom Kennedy residence at Sonora. Invitations began to develop among June 7, 1924. The program opened with a reading of Psalm 90 and part of Psalm 107. Following the reading of the Psalms, the assembly sang the hymn, "Come all ye dwell below the skies." Further, another hymn became the traditional opening hymn — "God of our fathers, hear our prayer." Prayers were offered by John T. Johnson.

Sonora displayed marked the first meeting, although the old event of the first annual meeting, June 5, 1924. Contributing to the closed exercise in 1925, Mr. A. Charles Stevens gave the principal address. The Mr. Stevens family and Mr. A. L. Young also spoke.

At this first meeting the official commissioners of the Association were the Gordon Sullivan, who emigrated to California in 1854. The oldest native of Tuolumne County present was Thomas Hicks, born April 20, 1857. Thomas Hicks was the second white child to be born in this county. The first white child born in the Tuolumne County was stated to [illegible]. "The mong of my son [illegible]." The father was "John Cooper, a noted backwoodsman, and pioneer" in a [illegible] of [illegible] and hunting," who later moved to [illegible] Mexico.

Upon adjournment, the proper committee was instructed to have the proceedings published in the "Union," "Sonora," and "Free Press."

The next anniversary picnic celebration by the Tuolumne Association was "The Grand Centennial Celebration," which was held in Sonora on July 4, 1926. In spite of the hardship of an early and

severe electrical storm, the Centennial was such a huge success that the affair calls for a much more extensive report than the mere mention that we are able to give it here.

In the years following the Centennial, the Pioneer meetings continued to be an annual event in Jefferson County. Most of the meetings were held at the old Fairgrounds. One year, because of rain, the services were held in the court house. At least once, in 1878, the meeting was held at Casey's Grove, "south of, and adjacent to, the City of Mt. Vernon."

The programs soon fell into a pattern. First would be a reading from the scriptures. There would be group singing of a hymn, which as noted above came to be -- "And we are yet alive." There would be a speaker, who usually was followed by more group singing or by special music. Special awards might be made. At one time a cake was presented to the oldest citizen-members, and bouquets to the most aged present, "male and female." The use and display of relics used, and sometimes made, by the pioneers were a common feature. And always there was the reading of the names of those who had died since the previous meeting.

The speakers liked to draw comparisons between the present (then) and the pioneer way of living. One favorite topic was the fact of growing old. A typical example of this subject is found in the following excerpt from an address given by the Rev. C. E. Cline at the seventh annual meeting, held at Casey's Grove, Friday, June 7, 1878:

"You play upon the same hillsides that you played on fifty years ago; you attend the same old-fashioned singing schools and apple-cuttings of your youthful days; you hear the same powerful sermons preached by Thomas Giles and John Van Cleve, when you were children, and many of your hearts linger about the old home altar, where you so often heard the voices of your sainted father and mother, long since hushed in death, commend you to God and His grace. When you were young you lived in hope and anticipation; now you are old you live in the memories of the past. Much of your youthful enthusiasm has been corrected by experience, for youth throws too sanguine hopes on the future."

The last minutes of a Pioneer meeting are dated June 7, 1899. At this time only five of the fifty-seven charter members of the Association were yet alive: Celia P. Hicks, age 80 years; Elizabeth P. Satterfield, age 83 years; Joel F. Watson, age 78 years; Clinton M. Casey, age 77 years; and Robert Harlow, age 82 years.

KING CITY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

In the early part of the year 1914, a group of business men associated with the Ham National Bank met in that building to organize an association to make loans for new homes in this community. It was decided to call it the King City Building and Loan Association. The officers selected were G. F. M. Ward, president; Dr. J. T. Whitlock, vice president, J. W. Gibson, secretary and W. S. Fly, treasurer. The directors were Earl B. Hinman, C. F. Hoit, Lester C. Maxey, Dr. H. M. Swift, Isaac Vermilion, G. F. M. Ward, Fred P. Watson, Joel Watson, and Dr. J. T. Whitlock.

The state issued a charter on March 20, 1914, with a capital stock of $50,000 and $18,000 subscribed. Certificate No. 1 was issued to Judge Albert Watson. Other investors, besides the officers and directors, were John W. Carlisle and W. S. Summers.

Those who have served as president are G. F. M. Ward, Fred P. Watson, Carl Schweinfurth and Guy A. Wood.

Serving as secretaries have been James W. Gibson, Glen Kirk, Guy A. Wood and Guy Wood, Jr.

Treasurers have been W. S. Fly, J. W. Gibson, Charles R. Keller, H. J. Cossing, Marlin C. Rich and Margaret Benton.

Attorneys have been Joel F. Watson, Albert Watson and Maurice DeWitt.

Following is a list of directors who have served: Earl B. Hinman, C. F. Hoit, Lester C. Maxey, Dr. H. M. Swift, Isaac Vermilion, Albert Watson, Fred P. Watson, Joel F. Watson, G. F. M. Ward, J. T. Whitlock, Gaylord B. Buck, W. S. Summers, John W. Carlisle, Walter N. Atkinson, Marlin C. Rich, Dr. T. A. Clark, Carl Schweinfurth, Mrs. Ollie L. Sever, Guy A. Wood, Dr. Todd P. Ward, V. Barney Myers, Ray W. Bundy, Harry L. Ford, Maurice DeWitt, Paul Fitch, George F. M. Ward, D. Clarence Wilson, James L. Woodruff and Guy Wood, Jr.

In 1937 the association was changed from state charter to federal and the name changed to King City Federal Savings and Loan Association. At this time the association moved from the Ham National Bank Building to the Stumpp Building, 1005 Broadway, which was occupied until the erection of the association's own new and modern building at 117 North 10th Street in 1955.

The King City Federal has been progressive and its directors and personnel always have been active in any civic undertaking. It has helped thousands of people to own their own homes, making millions of dollars worth of loans. It now has investors from thirty states.

Guy A. Wood, the president, was elected secretary in 1923 and has served the association ever since. The association has shown a continuous growth, with assets now over thirteen million dollars.

Around-the-clock service is available for customers of the King City Federal Savings and Loan Association. Customers who find it inconvenient to go to the offices during regular hours are able to drop their pass book and payment into a convenient stainless steel letter-slot type opening. No key is required nor is any charge made for the night depository service.

King City Federal's new office building was thrown open to inspection by the general public on Sunday, May 15, 1955, after more than a year of planning and construction work. The three-story structure is built of stone, brick, aluminum, concrete and steel. Its handsome polished granite front faces one of southern Illinois' busiest highways and is a showplace and landmark for the King City, from which the firm which owns it took its name.

The building occupies a site linked to early history of Mt. Vernon, and it has a large lot extending through from Tenth Street to Eleventh Street. For more than a hundred years the homestead of the Herdman family was here. It was in this same block that Abraham Lincoln made a political speech in 1840. The modernistic building occupies the east end of the lot and the west end has been paved for parking. King City was the first Mt. Vernon office building to provide off-street parking facilities for tenants of the building.

Guy A. Wood rose from a farm boy at Bluford to the presidency of the King City Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Mr. Wood was born and reared on a farm near Bluford and came to Mt. Vernon in 1919 after serving in the Motor Transport Corps of the U. S. Army during World War One. He served four years as deputy county treasurer during the term of James Kell.

He joined the King City Federal Savings and Loan Association in 1922. In 1923 he was elected secretary, and on January 22, 1948

was elected president and has served the association continuously to the present time.

Mr. Wood has always taken an active interest in the development of Mt. Vernon and has been a worker in civic projects through the years. In 1952 -- in recognition of a job well done in the interests of his community -- he was named Mt. Vernon's Man of the Year. Mr. Wood has served as director of the Chamber of Commerce and for two years was its president. He has been active on the state Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee and was active in establishing funds for Mt. Vernon's municipal airport. He was a major in the Illinois Reserve Militia Air Corps during World War Two and worked on war loan drives. He has been an active worker in the Boy Scouts and through the years has served on various drives held for the betterment of the community.

He is a member of the Elks Lodge, a charter member of the American Legion and the Lions Club and has served all of the organizations in official capacities. Mr. Wood helped to organize the First National Bank and has been a director since its organization. He is prominent in savings and loan work on the state level and has been on committees of the U. S. Savings and Loan League for years.

Despite his busy career, he has found time for hobbies of golfing, hunting and aviation. For five years he owned his own plane, and during World War Two he managed the Mt. Vernon Airport for a year.

KING CITY SCENE

(Taken from an article under date of October 2, 1962, written by Orian Metcalf and published in the Mt. Vernon Register-News. This is one of many delightful articles written by Mr. Metcalf under this title.)

A report about the King City to its old friends living elsewhere.

We had resort weather most of the summer and the first fall days are pleasant. Already people (young people, that is) are hunting hickory nuts and keeping an eye out for persimmons. Mt. Vernon is beautifully clothed in foliage tinted by the hint of frost.

Standing on the corner of Ninth and Main you can look south and see one of the last two remaining structures of the old car shops. It is the bare framework and roof of the former steel plant at the south side of the car shop property at Lamar Avenue. All the other car shop buildings have been wrecked.

Across the street south from the skeleton a public housing project is going up fast. It will provide living quarters for about a hundred families in one and two-story structures. Scores of old homes were bulldozed and burned to make way for the new residence.

They tell me houses once stood on the north side of Lamar and were replaced by the steel plant now being torn down.

* * *

What used to be Dr. Gee's cow pasture on South 13th Street is now the Khoury League baseball park, operated by the Kiwanis Club on property owned by Mode O'Day dress factory.

Shawnee Street has been reopened. Added are a couple of curves. Missing are the old brick sidewalk and the many bumpy railroad switch tracks which jolted the bolts out of automobiles.

* * *

Mt. Vernon high school has let a contract for a block-long classroom building, extending from Seventh to Eighth on Jordan. The fine rambling homes which once graced this block are gone--razed in the name of progress. The new building will adjoin the site of the pioneer-days Mt. Vernon Academy in which the agnostic Robert G. Ingersoll once taught.

Mt. Vernon high school's enrollment is over 1600. More than 300 are attending junior college on the same campus, a larger student body than the high school had 50 years ago.

* * *

New homes keep going up. Every time I take a drive I see an attractive dwelling I hadn't noticed before. Largest extension of the town is to the west. The city limits extend beyond 34th Street now, but only the postman, police and fireman know where many of the new streets are located. When people ask me how to get Hedgewood or Butternut, or streets whose names sound like that, I can't tell them.

We're getting used to the new stoplights and it has been quite a while since anyone told the story about the man in the phone

booth on the public square who called for a friend to come and get him at the corner of Walk and Don't Walk.

* * *

The airport is a popular Mt. Vernon attraction and lots of people drop by to watch the planes and to take rides. Mildred and I made our first trip on Ozark Air Lines last week. We had difficulty getting two tickets and coming home through clouds so heavy that we couldn't land in Bloomington and Mattoon. I almost wished Earl Outland and Ozark friends had not gone to so much trouble to make sure we got reservations.

* * *

The new post office is ready. It's a functional building at 13th and Broadway, not as distinctive in appearance as the sturdy old limestone at 11th and Main. Its operation poses a real traffic problem because the one-way street runs into two-way travel at the corner of the post office parking area.

* * *

The city finally bought the water company. Now if we don't pay our sewer bill they can shut our water off. And if my October water bill is as high as the September one the Wall Street people sent me as a final bill I will complain to the city council. Oh, those poor councilmen.

* * *

I had the deluxe tour of the new Illinois Bell building the other day and they showed me a lot more about telephones than I needed to know. I took it all in while they were explaining the operation to my son-in-law who has a master's degree in physics and knew what they were talking about. We traced a call from the point where the lines come in deep under Main Street, through endless electronic devices ending with the mysterious ticket in braille when a subscriber dials long distance direct from his home phone. (Did you know the telephone cables are kept filled with gas which is injected at the point where they come into the central office? They say it keeps moisture out of the lines and leakage indicators help to locate breaks in the cables.)

* * *

Mt. Vernon clubs have been hard hit by the state's crackdown on possessors of gambling stamps. The Eagles, American Legion, Amvets

and Elks have to close their bars for 30 days and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have already served their suspension. Their slot machines at the same time no longer jingle.

For many years the club-owned "one-armed bandits" have been paying the freight for these fraternal and veteran orgonizations, building their fine quarters and even furnishing much of the money they donated to civic causes and charity. What effect the shutdown will have on their United Fund and Christmas goodfellow projects remains to be seen.

The Eagles ran an advertisement which brought back memories of prohibition days. They scheduled a dance and invited "come and bring your own bottle."

* * *

The country club has its own special financial woes. It has been assessed to pay taxes for the first time and may be nicked a considerable amount if the assessment stands. When Tom Puckett finishes his new golf course on the Richview Road next year Mt. Vernon will have three links: Puckett's 18-holer, Hertenstein's 9-hole layout at Homestead, and Green Hills' beautiful 9-hole course.

* * *

It's election time and as usual telephone and light poles throughout the county are nailed full of candidate placards. Two candidates, former sheriff Roy Taylor and Alva Mellott, solved the problem of steel posts by using mucilage and have their stickers on downtown light poles.

LOGAN STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The history of the Logan Street Missionary Baptist Church began on October 27, 1913, when a group of seven people met together in Mt. Vernon in an old store building on the corner of South 10th Street and Lamar Avenue for the purpose of constituting a Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Asbury Runnels and Sadie Runnels held membership in Missionary Baptist churches but desired to begin another such congregation. They invited the ordained leadership of the Salem South Association to meet with them and assist them in organization. At this meeting they adopted the Articles of Faith laid down in Pendleton's Manual and the Church Covenant used by Baptist churches. An opportunity was given for membership, and nineteen others who held membership in other Baptist churches expressed their desire to unite with this new group. The church was therefore organized with twenty-six charter members. The name for this new church was "The Fourth Baptist Church." Soon Elder J. W. Allen was called as pastor for preaching once a month with the church meeting on the other Sundays for Sunday School.

This new church continued to grow in number, and on the day that the church was two months old a committee was elected to look about for a suitable location on which an adequate meeting place could be erected. A lot was found on the corner of Logan and 21st Streets which was purchased for $140. The church then voted to change its name to "The Logan Street Missionary Baptist Church" and to have the deed for the new property recorded in that name. The church then applied for affiliation with the Salem South Association of Baptists and the Illinois Baptist State Association. The annual meeting of the State Association accepted messengers from Logan Street Church at its meeting that year in Marion, Illinois.

The church began in the spring of 1914 the task of building its first house of worship. The men of the church did most of the work in constructing the first building, which was thirty by sixty feet in dimensions and of frame construction. Even while meeting in the rented store building, the church voted to hear some returned missionaries from Brazil and to give an offering to Missions. The new church was completed and occupied, and on August 30, 1916, Editor

W. P. Throgmorton of the Illinois Baptist Newspaper was invited to preach the dedicatory sermon.

Two years later the church voted to go to half-time preaching under the leadership of Brother J. W. Mooney, who had been called as pastor on September 25, 1915. In 1918 a Baptist Young People's Union was organized for the young people. Brother Mooney proved to be a fine leader and was called three times. On August 12, 1916, his salary was $10.00 per preaching engagement. By the summer of 1920 the church needed space for the growing Sunday School, and they voted to place a basement under the frame building.

In 1919, Brother O. J. Bell was called as pastor, at a salary of $17.50 per preaching engagement. He was recalled in 1920.

In the spring of 1921 the church raised $812.00 in pledges in anticipation of having full-time preaching. This was accomplished in August of that year when Brother F. L. Karn was called as the full time pastor. The annual letter to the association shows that in 1923, when the church was ten years old, the membership had reached 165 persons. Brother F. L. Karn was given an indefinite call and served as pastor until July, 1925, when he resigned because of the fatal illness of his wife.

Brother W. J. Anderson was then called as pastor on August 5, 1925, and served three years. A Woman's Missionary Society was organized during his ministry on September 19, 1927.

Brother J. Polk Richardson was called as pastor on September 26, 1928, and served until July 24, 1929.

Brother John Maulding was called on August 21, 1929, and served for four years. During his ministry a revival was held in which seventy-two persons professed faith in Christ, and all were baptized in the City Park Lake. Brother Maulding also led the church in sponsoring a radio ministry over Station WEBQ in Harrisburg, Illinois. The pastor and choir journeyed to Harrisburg on the 23rd day of each month and broadcast from 7 to 8 a.m.

Brother J. R. McDuffy served for two years as pastor, being called on August 30, 1933 and leaving the church in July, 1935.

Brother W. M. Carlton of Marion was then called and served as pastor until August, 1936. In 1936 the frame building became

inadequate for the growing church, and it was decided to sell the building and move it off the lot, making room for the construction of a brick veneer building sixty by sixty feet with full basement.

Brother Adolph Christman was called as pastor September 16, 1936, and led in the construction of the new building. The building was completed and the church invited Brother J. W. Maddox of Metropolis to preach the dedicatory sermon on January 2, 1938.

Brother J. L. Ford was called as pastor on September 6, 1939, and under his leadership a mission was started in a vacant church building in McClellan Township with Sunday School and worship services held there each Sunday afternoon.

Brother John Daugherty of Vandalia was called as pastor July 22, 1942, and served until March, 1946.

The church voted to buy property for a parsonage and the house adjacent to the church on the south was purchased and remodeled for Brother George Wright who came as pastor June 19, 1946. He challenged the church to start a mission in the area adjoining the City Park, and a committee was appointed to make a survey. A house was rented, and services began under the leadership of Brother F. L. Kann who served as mission pastor for two years. On October 5, 1949, twenty-four members of Logan Street Church were lettered out to form the nucleus of the West Side Baptist Church.

In 1947 with Pastor Kyle Wyatt leading, the church voted to begin construction of a two-story educational building across the west end of the sanctuary, at a cost of $75,000; and on June 24, 1949, space for forty-six classrooms was dedicated. Dr. James Baldwin of Salem was invited to preach the dedicatory sermon. In August of that year the church began broadcasting the morning worship services every Sunday over Station WMIX.

On August 9, 1950, Dr. W. A. Gray of Effingham was called as pastor, and he served until April, 1952.

In November, 1952, Brother S. Otho Williams of Carbondale began a six-year ministry as pastor, resigning in February, 1959, to become Superintendent of the Baptist Children's Home in Carmi, Illinois. During his ministry a full time office secretary was employed and the house south of the parsonage was purchased for Sunday School space and

named "The Annex." The parsonage was sold and removed, and a new parsonage was erected at #10 Hillcrest at a cost of $18,000.

On July 24, 1954 a new mission was started in a store-front building at 1701 South Tenth Street. Self supporting from the first, it has now become the South Side Baptist Church, moving into its own brick sanctuary on Fishers Lane and 15th Streets in November of 1956.

A mission was also started at Waltonville, Illinois, and was constituted a church on Easter Sunday, in 1957, with forty-eight charter members.

In March, 1957, Brother Ralph Gill was called by the church to serve as minister of music and education and a home for him was purchased at 609 South 21st Street.

Plans were made in June, 1957, for an addition to the educational plant, and on Sunday September 25, 1958, a $125,000 two-story, air-conditioned building was dedicated. Dr. Noel M. Taylor, Executive Secretary of Illinois Baptists, was invited to preach the dedicatory sermon. The house known as "The Annex" was sold and moved and the lot gravelled for parking space.

On May 6, 1959, the church called Brother James Franks of Galatia as paston, and on June 10 added Brother Louis Gabler to the staff. He is presently serving as minister of music and education. Mrs. Marjorie Ellingsworth was employed as office secretary, and is presently serving. In the autumn of 1960 the church voted to adopt "The Forward Program of Church Finance" and approved an annual budget of $80,000.

In May of 1961 a house and two lots at 2016 Logan Street was purchased for off-street parking. The house was removed and both lots were graded and rock-chipped, providing space for sixty cars.

Ten men have been ordained, and twelve others have been licensed to preach the gospel during the life-time of the church; and one young woman, Betty Davis Martin, has gone out from the church to serve on the foreign mission field.

The church is approaching its Golden Jubilee Year of 1963, hoping to launch a building program which will climax fifty years of progress with a $200,000 stone and brick auditorium to be dedicated on October 27, 1963, their fiftieth anniversary.

MT. VERNON PUBLIC LIBRARY

On August 9, 1893, seventeen citizens met at the home of Col. George W. Evans for the purpose of organizing the Shakespeare Club, and thus began the first library movement in Mt. Vernon.

The object of the Shakespeare Club was "mutual improvement of members, and establishing a public circulating library" according to their by-laws, constitution and minute book, now on file in the Mt. Vernon Public Library. Mrs. George W. Evans was elected president, Julia Burton vice president, Mrs. Eugene Pavey secretary, Bernadine Ham treasurer, and Neone Chance librarian.

Women paid an initiation fee of 25¢ and a due at each meeting of 5¢. Men were honorary members for $1.50 annually. These funds established and maintained their library. Overdues were 10¢ per week, and the library was open from 2:00 to 3:00 p. m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Club rooms were over the Mammoth Store.

Six years later, in 1899, their interests became more social than literary. They appointed delegates to attend the State Meeting of Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs in Jacksonville, paid state dues, and revised their constitition. They offered to donate their 650 books to the city, providing the council would pass an ordinance creating a free public library and set an appropriation for its continued support. The first public library was downtown over the Mammoth. This indicated that the Shakespear Club split, thus becoming the mother of the Women's Club as well as the Mt. Vernon Public Library.

Mayor W. T. Estes and Councilmen Spiese, Bogan, Broom, Hopper, Lynch, Louth and Smith accepted the generous offer and passed an ordinance on March 18, 1899. A board of nine directors was named including Albert Watson, T. J. Mathews, A. A. Spiese, Miss Inez Green, Dr. Florence Manion, Mrs. Jeannette Noyes Evans, Mrs. Rinnie Pace Waters, Mrs. Clara Green Webb, and Mrs. Octavia T. Casey.

Mrs. H. G. Jones was selected as librarian, and her salary was fixed at twenty-two cents per hour. The first appropriation was for $700 and was allowed on August 3, 1899. The first annual report was made by T. J. Mathews, as secretary of the board. He reported 815 books, a circulation of 5,232, and registered memberships totaled 95.

Carnegie Donation

Mr. W. C. Arthurs took an active interest in the library movement, and the offer of a $15,000 Carnegie Donation resulted from his influence and correspondence. A special council meeting was called on April 8, 1903, by Mayor M. R. Heidler and Frank Suddoth, city clerk, to accept the donation. Mayor Heidler appointed W. C. Arthurs, Sam Casey, L. L. Emmerson, T. J. Mathews, W. H. Green, B. A. Marshall, A.C. Johnson, G. F. M. Ward and Mayor Heidler to serve as a special Library Committee.

The committee obtained the site from the Green family. Their estate was where the Armory now stands. Bonds were issued to cover the cost, which was $7000.

The Carnegie Library Committee reported the building ready for occupancy and asked to be released from further services, when they made their final report to the council on August 3, 1905, approximately two years later. The total cost of the library was $15,562.77.

The contract for the building was given to the Lake View Building Company of Chicago for $12,000. Heat was contracted through the Citizens Gas Electric and Heating Company for $137 per season, and did not provide for the basement nor the third floor. Lights were $976, sheet metal and tile roof $994, heating unit and wiring $980, architect's fees (5%) $762, plumbing $219, and decoration $275.

Dedication services of the new library were held in the auditorium. The librarian reported a book collection of 2,620, and 1,156 registered patrons who had borrowed approximately 12 books per patron during the year.

Miss Emma Johnson was elected librarian on July 29, 1904, and she remained until Gertrude Moller became librarian on September 5, 1914.

In 1913 the library board decided to have the library classified, catalogued, based on the Dewey Decimal System, and put in first class condition in other respects, so that a higher standard of efficiency could be maintained. Miss Katherine Doyle was hired for a period not to exceed one year, and was paid $500 for this purpose. She remained until December of 1914. Miss Gertrude Moller

became her understudy during this period and assumed the duties of Librarian on September 5, 1914. She remained until October, 1927, resigning to accept a position in the State Library.

In June, 1917, Mr. Walter Nehrling, landscape gardener of Eastern Illinois State Normal, came from Charleston, Illinois, to superintend a contract to landscape the lawn of the library for $250. Among the trees and shrubs which were planted are some which are rare in this county, such as norway maples, ash, magnolia, ginkgo biloba or maiden-hair tree of China and horse chestnut. In 1960 a mimosa and a golden raintree were planted. Student field trips from science classes from city schools to view these trees and shrubs are frequent.

Mrs. Mildred Metcalf, who had been assistant librarian since July 5, 1924, became librarian in October, 1927, and remained until September, 1929.

Miss Ruth Metcalf, first assistant librarian, was appointed librarian in October, 1929, and served until December 1, 1929, when she married and moved to Chicago.

Miss Margaret Pittman assumed the responsibility of the library in February, 1930.

Mrs. Mildred Metcalf, who had returned to the staff as assistant librarian in October, 1939, was appointed librarian on the retirement of Mrs. Margaret (Pittman) Baird, effective July 7, 1942. Mrs. Metcalf is the present librarian as this is written.

War Activities

During World War Two, the Mt. Vernon Library conducted a Victory Book Drive in 1943, during which 1,560 acceptable books were collected. The library served as one of twenty centers in Illinois. Books were received here from Flora, Fairfield, Olney, Salem, Mt. Carmel, Benton, Centralia and McLeansboro and were shipped to destinations on instructions from Springfield.

Books were furnished to establish and maintain libraries in each of the four day rooms at Camp Mt. Vernon, which was west of the city on Route 15.

Growth and Development

In 1952, during the city-wide school building program, the library provided five emergency classrooms for morning use. Three

were held in the old auditorium and two in the basement. These classrooms served Edison School first and later Franklin.

Library operation must conform to city ordinances and to state statutes. The library is required to make an annual report and to project a budget. Projects and major expenditures must be budgeted in advance and sometimes over several years.

A recent fifteen-year survey shows that $50,000 has been spent for major repairs and improvements on the library, such as a stoker, heating plants, tuckpointing, insulation, cement and asphalt tile basement flooring, rubber tile flooring and fluorescent lighting in both adult and junior departments, maple tables and chairs, counter height book units, reading nooks with reading lamps, all-metal front door and entrance, drive-up book return, unit telephone system, and a unit system of air conditioning.

The new Junior Department, which was converted from the old auditorium on the third floor, was opened in November of 1955. This required insulation, extension telephone, water fountain, adequate furniture, rest rooms, and a fire escape which is required by law.

Modernization has provided us a departmentalized library. Mt. Vernon's library has been written up in the ILLINOIS LIBRARIES, the magazine of the State Library. This has brought guests to the library to see what can be done with an old Carnegie building. The main floor now serves only adults, with a fiction wing, a non-fiction wing, reading and reference room with bound magazines, encyclopedia corner, current newspapers, magazines, and best-sellers.

Mt. Vernon is an educational center, with extension courses from Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, and McKendree College. Vocational and adult night classes have a high enrollment in the high school and junior college. To meet these needs, a college shelf has been created in Mt. Vernon Public Library under the guidance of teachers, thus providing the proper research and resource materials.

The library's new Current Events Room now makes available to the public, for the first time in the history of the library, back files of newspapers, pamphlets, and now a five-year file of magazines. This is a very welcome source of reference for school

research. It is the largest file in Southern Illinois outside of the Southern Illinois University library in Carbondale. This room also houses the audio visual equipment which includes the Micro Reader and Micro Film of the Mt. Vernon Register-News; 16 mm projector and film, and the HI FI with recordings of music, social studies, speech and foreign languages and plays.

The library provides classroom libraries to city schools and to rural schools by contract. Tours are conducted and classes on library orientation are taught to scouts and students by appointment.

The library has sponsored a First Aid Red Cross Class as an adult feature and service to the community in presenting a coordinated program under the Red Cross and Civilian Defense to alert the public in regard to emergencies and to provide a network of first aid trained personnel throughout civic organizations, business, churches and city employees. These were held in November and December, 1961.

The library was originally built fpr a ca½acotu pf abpit 8,000 volumes. In 1962 the library has approximately 20,000 volumes; it has 7,100 patrons, or about 45% of the community, and March circulation totaled more than 10,000. This is more than four books per capita, or about eight books per patron. An average of more than 1,100 reference questions were answered monthly during 1961.

The Mt. Vernon Public Library was nominated for the 1962 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Annual Award. This is a $5,000 grant to the winning library, large or small, for outstanding services. It is a coveted honor, because each of the fifty states is permitted only two nominations to be made by the State Library or its agency. The Southern Illinois Regional Library in Carbondale nominated the Mt. Vernon Public Library for this 1962 award.

The 1962 staff of the library include: Mildred E. Metcalf, librarian; Leone B. Threlkeld, assistant; Helen Turner, assistant; Jewel Fuller, assistant; Leo Schulik, custodian; Doris Harvey, part-time; and Eugenia Welles, part-time.

Librarians, listed chronologically, have been: Neone Chance (1893), Mrs. H. M. Jones (1899), Emma Johnson (1904), Gertrude Moller (1914), Mildred (Threlkeld) Metcalf (1927), Ruth (Metcalf)

Keaton (1929), Margaret (Pittman) Baird (1930), and Mildred (Threlkeld) Metcalf (1942).

Following is the listing (alphabetically) of the Mt. Vernon Public Library directory of staff personnel: Margaret (Pittman) Baird (1930, and part-time in 1949), Marjorie Brydon (1924), Neone Chance (1893), Daisy Davis (1903), Elizabeth Doty (1947), Paula (McCracken) Dulaney (1949), J. E. Edson (1917), Geneva (Jeanne) Estes (1927), Mabel Fields (1945), Jewel Fuller (1949), Doris Harvey (1962), Mary Lynn (Robison) Hayes (1960), Donald Heffington (1957), Geneva Herbert (1920), Lillian Hoffman (1932), Margaret Hoskins (1922), Ray Jackson (1960), Emma Johnson (1904), Caroline Jones (1949), Mrs. H. M. Jones (1899), Josephine Keelor (1953), Ruby Kincheloe (1915), Sara (Metcalf) Kitch (1953), Lola Knight (1938), Frederica Loar (1947), Rena McKittrick (1937), Harley Marshall (1914), Mary Mathews (1903), Jane Maynor (1954), Martha Bell Menzer (1921), Mildred (Threlkeld) Metcalf (assistant 1924; librarian 1927; assistant 1939; librarian 1942), Ruth Metcalf (1925), Gertrude Moller (1914), David Parker (1956), John Paul (1953), Mollie (Fuller) Payne (1957), Helen Rainey (1919), Doris Rankin (1941), Nelle Scott (1946), Leo Schulik (1960), Roy Scrivner (1953), Mrs. H. B. Setzkorn (1917), Mary Setzkorn (1921), John Shehorn (1949), Lewis Shehorn (1943), Willis Smith (1945), Leone Threlkeld (1941), Helen Turner (1960), Dorothy Upton (1938), Pauline Warfel (1960), Berintha Waters (1929), Felia Warren (1939), Eugenia Welles (1962), Dorace West (1953), Gradon Williams (1940), Harry Yearwood (1927), Helen Young (1923).

Here is a list of the directors of the Library, listed alphabetically (dates are first term expirations. It is assumed that each was appointed three years prior): Albert Allen (1929), Mrs. Joe Frank Allen (1939), J. R. Allen (1899), H. J. Alvis (1901), Mrs. J. J. Baker (1914), Mrs. Lawrence Bedard (1939), Mrs. Grover C. Bond (1932), Howard Bosley (1933), Mrs. George Bovard (1933), James P. Burke (1961), Earl Carroll (1941), Mrs. Sam Casey (1899), Mrs. H. A. Cawood (1931), Mrs. John Conlew (1953), E. E. Cotton (1930), Kenneth Cross (1952), Lowell A. Dearinger (1959), Mrs. Arnold DeWitt (1962), Mrs. James M. Dickson (1919), Marion Dykes (1948), John Eater (1939),

Silas Echols (1915), Mrs. Silas Echols (1936), Mrs. Morris Emmerson (1899), Mrs. George W. Evans (1899), Mrs. Ted Glass (1962), Mrs. George Green (1933), William H. Green (1904), Carl Hammond (1944), Albert H. Harlow (1932), Clarence W. Harris (1902), Mrs. J. T. Hartnagel (1901), W. W. Harvey (1948), Mrs. Melvin Hassebrock (1956), Demetri Hassakis (1961), Brownlow Hawkins (1934), Glenn Hawkins (1963), Leo A. Heffington (1956), Mrs. Martin Hess (1950), Henry Hinckley (1908), Harold Howard (1916), Joe Howard (1900), Mrs. Gary Hutchison (1956), Leland Hutson (1961), Mrs. A. C. Johnson (1902), Mrs. James L. Johnson (1931), Donald O. Lee (1948), Hubert Leonard (1934), Mrs. John Manion (1944), B. A. Marshall (1904), Thomas J. Mathews (1899), Mrs. Moss Maxey (1925), C. Z. Meffert (1933), Mrs. William Minor (1913), William H. Miner (1926), Mrs. J. H. Mitchell (1902), Mrs. Warren Moore (1922), Mrs. Norman Moss (1900), Mrs. William T. Pace (1926), Albert Parker (1949), Louis G. Pavey (1908), Lacey Payne (1958), Mrs. Leonard Rhodes (1930), Marlin Rich (1943), Eleanor Richardson (1955), Rena Robor (1941), Arnold Ross (1960), Mrs. Richard Roth (1949), Mrs. Vernon Scrivner (1960), Mrs. M. J. Seed (1914), D. P. Settlemire (1931), Mrs. Roy Simpson (1956), A. Spiese (1899), Mrs. C. A. Stelle (1940), Mrs. Chauncey Stratton (1923), Mrs. Harry L. Threlkeld (1929), Turner (1901), Beatrice Tuttle (1942), E. E. Van Cleve (1903), Mildred Warren (1931), Mrs. O. M. Waters (1899), Albert Watson (1899), Fern Watson (1941), Mrs. Fred P. Watson (1924), Mrs. A. D. Webb (1899), Mrs. Wilton Webb (1964), Mrs. Charles Wetzel (1938), J. T. Whitlock (1913), Mrs. A. L. Williams (1963), Wendell Williams (1940), Mrs. W. P. Wood (1926), and Leona Zimmerman (1947).

LITTLE GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

This congregation was organized December 27, 1838, as the Grand Prairie Congregation. For reasons unknown now, in the year of 1844 the name was changed to Little Grove Church of Christ (Christian). Trustees were John A. Williams, Andrew Copple and William Copple.

Members of the original congregation included Richard Breeze, J. A. Williams, Andrew Copple, Miles Sanders, David Copple, Nelson Andrews, Elias Gaskins, William Snow, John Copple, William Copple,

James Snow, Catherine Bare, Elizabeth Cameron, Christopher Copple, Jane H. Breeze, Mary Fine, Sarah Garren, Mary McCullough, Mary Gaskins, Mary Sanders, and Martha Bundy.

On December 18, 1851, the congregation met to transact business relative to church membership. They met two days each month to try members accused of such crimes against the church as betting, lying, drinking, using profane language, dancing, playing cards, etc. If found guilty, unless they came before the church, confessed and asked forgiveness, they were excluded from the church.

In 1854 or later, a resolution gave the trial of offenders against the Church of Christ into the hands of the elders, and it seems that was about the last of that business.

James Snow and Jacob Copple acted as elders of the congregation for a number of years. In April, 1860, Jacob Copple resigned and Franklin Cruzen was appointed to fill the vacancy. Henry Maltimore, Jacob Copple, William Snow, Mark Cameron, John Sanders, George Bundy, J. A. Copple, J. Foster and Alex Bundy were others who served as elders in the early days of the church.

November 16, 1861, the following was recorded: "The congregation has always tried to have preaching at least two days each month, but at times it has failed. For seven years we have met on the first day of the week for the purpose of attending to the institutions of the Lord's House."

The first record of a revival meeting was in 1861; it was held by Bro. Andrew Beard.

Here is a record of some deaths: Mary Fine died December 18, 1860, aged 100 years. Elwood Sanders enlisted September 3, 1862, in Company H, 80th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers and died at Gallitan, Tennessee, Hospital #4, February 1, 1863. James Cameron enlisted Company C, 11th Illinois Volunteers, August, 1862, died at home August 1, 1865 -- he was second sergeant.

In the early times funerals were held differently from now. At times a funeral sermon was preached from one to ten years after burial. Records show a large attendance of the funeral of Mary Shipley, preached by Bro. S. J. Leonard on May 8, 1865. On August 5, 1866, James Snow preached the funeral of Bro. Talbott, two sons and

one daughter. On September 9, 1866, James Snow preached the funeral of Brother and Sister Phelps and four children.

Some early ministers of this church include: Brothers Boggs, Hecks, J. T. Williams, N. M. Shipley, Clark Braden, James Snow, Bro. Baltimore, Bro. Van Deusen, Bro. Brown, Theo. Goodman, and John A. Williams. These preached 1864-1867. Then the congregation hired James Snow for one year, but during this year Bros. Williams, Brown, Goodman and J. D. Morgan preached at times. The next regular preacher hired was Bro. Griffith.

This church has always been liberal in its support of preaching the gospel. For three years it has contributed liberally to the Marion County Missionary Society.

In 1865, over $50 was paid the Missionary Board. November 24, 1864, the collection taken for soldiers' wives was $2.40. Regular collections for church purposes were: January 1, 1865, $2.65; January 15, $1.85; February 5, 1865, 90 cents; February 18, $3.20. For a revival meeting held in January, 1865, $20.00 was paid. These were liberal sums for that era.

In October, 1866, Bros. John A. Williams and Thomas Goodman held a revival meeting, "restoring brotherly love and fellowship, lack of which had destroyed some of the unity of the congregation."

This church has kept a record of marriages performed here.

The original building was of log construction. During the fall of 1870 a new building was proposed. A committee composed of John Sanders, Riley Copple, Franklin Cruzen and George Bundy was appointed to solicit funds to erect it. The committee employed George Burgraph to complete a building, seating, pulpit, painting, etc., for a total cost of $1895.00. This building (the present one) was completed the last of January, 1871. On Friday night before the first Lord's Day in February, 1871, a revival meeting was begun by Josiah Heap. The building was dedicated the first Sunday in February, 1871.

The first burial in the cemetery (at present about seven acres in area) was a child. Some travellers were camped in a grove of trees near the church, and a child of their group died. They buried it on a knoll north of the church. The grave is not marked, and hence the exact place is unknown.

There are three veterans of the War of 1812 buried in this cemetery, two veterans of the Mexican War, and sixty Civil War veterans buried here. Cornelius E. Breeze was a lieutenant in the 60th Illinois Infantry and the Mexican War; James Creed was a captain of the 71st Illinois Infantry and the Mexican War.

-- Estes E. Oldfield

MT. VERNON LIONS CLUB

The Mt. Vernon Lions Club was organized in 1924, with H. W. (Doc) Faulkner as its first president.

Among the many activities of the club have been: financing day nursery, organizing and sponsoring baseball teams, distributing Christmas baskets, erecting safety signs, cooperating with schools, entertaining blind people; sponsoring and securing subscriptions for the Boy Scout club house (1928); cooperating in staging Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the county; cooperated with the Chamber of Commerce and other service organizations of the city in putting over a combination Fourth of July and Washington Bi-Centennial celebration in 1932; conducting of marble tournaments for grade school boys beginning in 1933; donated an electric basketball scoreboard to the High School and assisted in the dedication of the new high school gymnasium in 1936; in 1937 aided the Red Cross in relief of the great flood; during World War Two sponsored the erection of a lighted County Military Honor Roll, adopted Company D of the U. S. Army Military Police Camp, Camp Mt. Vernon and furnished their lounge room; and at the end of the war, during which they had expended so much time and money in trying to further the war effort, they erected the Memorial Honor Roll at the court house.

They have purchased eye testing equipment for our schools; gave a lion to the city zoo in 1950 and next year a tanned lion skin was given to the Boy Scout Camp; helped fog-spray the city; donated toward the purchase of signal lights at school crossings; participated in the purchase of the "little house" for civic use; contributed to the purchase of a TV set for the State TB Hospital; assisted with campaigns to secure new industries for the community; promoted organization of an airport authority; participated in bicycle riders safety programs;

presented a motion picture projector to the Methodist Children's Home; purchased a complete tent unit for the Boy Scouts; sponsored Rubinoff and his violin.

Over the years, the Lions Club has been noted for its eye care program, whereby they provide eye examinations, fit persons with eye glasses and provide eye treatment if needed. They purchase raincoats and hats for school boy patrols, sponsor football teams and baseball teams, and donate to all worthy development and charity programs. Each year they hold a chicken barbecue on the east side of the Mt. Vernon square, using the proceeds for worthy causes.

Presidents of the Mt. Vernon Lions Club include: H. W. (Doc) Faulkner (1924-25), Rev. Meyer Madsen (1925-26), Rev. Owen W. Pratt (1926-27-28), Dr. Hardy Swift (1928-29), Guy A. Wood, Sr. (1929-30), Marion F. Heifner (1930-31-32), W. Barney Myers (1932-33), W. H. Gott (1933-34), Ralph O. Kaufman (1934-35-36), Dr. Tommy B. Williamson (1936-37), C. Dale Carpenter (1937-38), John Powell (1938-39), D. A. Whitlock (1939-40), John J. Manion (1940-41), George J. Howard (1941-), Otto Furbringer (1942-1943), James L. Woodruff (1943-44), Paul M. Fitch (1944-45), A. Paul Fellinger (1945-46), Glee Wood (1946-47), J. Marvin Powers (1947-48), Charles J. Covington (1948-49), Rev. R. B. Guthrie (1949-50), Albert Schroeder (1950-51), Gilbert N. Wood (1951-52), Herbert G. Downey (1952-53), Louis C. Pavledes (1953-54), Frank M. Case (1954-55), Arthur Milward (1955-56), George Heidenreich (1956-57), Robert Ward (1957-58), Ogie Ellis (1958-59), Harry Maulding (1959-60), Malcolm Hirons (1960-61), and Demetri Hassakis (1961-62).

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

After John Wesley had spent considerable time in America and had returned to England he wrote to certain followers of his faith here in America and requested them to hold a conference, perfect a permanent organization and select a name for it. This conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland in 1784 and a permanent organization was formed and named "The Methodist Episcopal Church." Thereafter throughout the various states and territories small groups of people of the Methodist faith met in school houses and in the homes of members for worship. These groups were designated as "Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

Such a group as above described was organized in the new log cabin home of Edward Maxey, about four miles northwest of Mt. Vernon on or near the Richview Road. This was on November 1, 1818, being about one month before the Territory of Illinois was admitted as a state and seven months before Jefferson County was organized. The town of Mt. Vernon was named and made the county seat on June 9, 1819.

The first sermon was preached to this group by a local preacher of the Methodist faith named Zadoc Casey, who afterwards became Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois and in whose honor the Zadok Casey Junior High School is named. This service was held in the one room log cabin home of a Mr. Hicks who lived some four miles west of Mt. Vernon.

The Society selected as its regular meeting place a log cabin school house which was about a mile northwest of Mt. Vernon and near what is now known as Old Union School. This continued to be used as the place of worship until the year 1835. The people assembled there for class meetings, prayer meetings, preaching services, coming from the growing town of Mt. Vernon, from nearby neighborhoods and from miles distant, for this was the only house of worship in the county at that time.

History tells us that the early settlers of this area were nearly all Methodists coming from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. The original Society and early congregations were largely made up of families bearing such names as Allen, Baugh, Casey, Edwards, Johnson,

Maxey, Moss and Watson, and many of their descendants are active members of the First Methodist Church.

From year to year the membership of the Society grew, and in 1835 the Society purchased a lot on what is now known as North Eleventh Street, in the Town of Mt. Vernon, this lot being across the alley immediately north of the present city hall; they erected thereon a substantial frame church building, the first in the town for divine worship. In this building, before it was entirely completed, a political debate was held in which Abraham Lincoln participated. At this time the name of the Society was changed to the "Mt. Vernon Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church." This frame structure was used for a place of worship until 1854 when it was sold and a new two story brick building was erected on Main Street on lots owned by the Society immediately west of the present (though not for much longer) post office building. In this new building the church auditorium was located on the second floor of the building while the ground floor was used for many years as a private school conducted by Professor Thomas H. Herdman. Prof. Herdman afterwards became president of McKendree College. In the steeple of this new building, the gift of Lt. Gov. Casey, was installed the same bell that is now in the belfry of the present church building.

In the afternoon of February 19, 1888, this fine building was destroyed by a tornado. At that time the Sunday School was held in the afternoon and many who lived in Mt. Vernon at that time felt that it was a miracle that Sunday School had been dismissed in time for the children to reach home before the tornado struck.

Of course the destruction of this building necessitated the building of a new church edifice, and this was done on the lots immediately west of the destroyed building, which had been previously purchased by the church. The building that was erected at that time is still in use, having been remodeled from time to time.

It appears that the services of the Society were conducted by local preachers of the Methodist faith until 1822, when the Society became connected with a regular circuit, and from 1822 to 1854 the Society remained a circuit church; but as soon as the new building was erected on Main Street it became a station charge with a full time minister.

Until 1893 this church was known as the Mt. Vernon Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but at about this time another Methodist church was formed and a church building erected on South Union Street (now South Tenth Street) and this church was named Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The church building was in later years moved to a new location on South Twelfth Street and now is known as the Wesley Methodist Church. With the coming of another Methodist Episcopal Church in the city, the Mt. Vernon Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was renamed the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois; and it retained this name until 1939 when, at the Uniting Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Protestant Methodist Church, the three organizations merged under the name of "The Methodist Church," the word "Episcopal" being eliminated. With this change in the official name of the parent church, local churches likewise dropped the word "Episcopal" and thus this church became the First Methodist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

During the ministry of Dr. G. E. McCammon an enlargement and modernization program was begun at which time the east and west wings of the building were enlarged and extended and balconies were built in each wing including the north wing, the basement was enlarged and the church interior redecorated. This work started in 1913 and was completed in 1914 under the ministry of Dr. C. C. Hall.

We believe that it should be recorded in this historical sketch that it was through the influence and hard work of the pastors of this church and certain of its devoted members that the Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church (now Wesley Methodist Church) and the Epworth Methodist Church were organized. Rev. W. F. Daniel, a devoted member of this church and a local preacher, was largely responsible for organization of what is now known as the Wesley Methodist; he served as its minister until its membership became large enough to support an assigned pastor. Much credit for the organization of the Epworth Methodist Church must be given to Charles Yearwood, Harry Johnson and the members of the Westcott family, all of whom were members of the First Methodist Church.

In 1949 under the ministry of Rev. Bayne D. Wilson the basement of the church was completely remodeled by the installation of a new and modern kitchen, tile floors, new lighting system and class rooms, dining room and Fellowship Center, all finished with knotty pine walls; and in 1950 the church auditorium was likewise modernized with new individual upholstered seats, arranged with a wide center isle, a divided chancel, new carpeting and a complete redecorating job.

Realizing the necessity of taking better care of the young people of the church both as to religious training and social activities, under the leadership of Rev. Bayne D. Wilson, the officials and members of the church authorized the construction of a modern Educational Unit. This was during the conference year of 1953-1954. After careful planning by an appointed Finance and Building Committee, the new building was constructed on the vacant lots immediately east of the church building with a well appointed lobby connecting the two buildings. Both buildings are faced with Bedford Stone and are efficiently arranged to meet the requirements of the various organizations of the church.

The new building program wass completed during the ministry of Dr. Dale Harmon, and the new Educational Unit was dedicated on Sunday morning, August 25, 1957. Due to the liberal contributions by members and friends of the church and to the funds bequeathed to the church in the will of a deceased member, Ray Jacobson, the entire program was completed free of any indebtedness.

Following is a list, in chronological order, of ministers who have served this church from 1818 to the present: John Harris, Charles Slocomb, J. Stewart, Robert Delap, Josiah Patterson, William Smith, William Moore, Orseneth Fisher, Thomas Files, John Fox, John H. Benson, James Walker, Simeon Walker, Thomas C. Collins, W. L. Jenkins, W. W. Mitchell, David Coulson, James M. Massey, John Shepherd, James H. Dickman, William T. Tillard, James M. Massey, R. H. Moffit, J. J. Richardson, David Blackwell, Arthur Bradshaw, John Thatcher, J. C. Kimber, James A. Robinson, John H. Hill, T. W. Jones, James Leaton, Norman Allyn, Ephraim Joy, Thomas A. Eaton, R. H. Manier, Micaijah House, George W. Hughey, John H. Hill, B. R. Pierce, John Leeper,

Joseph Harris, D. W. Phillips, Nelson Hawley, C. E. Cline, Calloway Nash, John W. Lock, O. H. Clark, W. F. Davis, J. B. Thompson, J. W. VanCleve, J. F. Harmon, J. A. Taylor, C. D. Shumard, G. E. McCammon, C. C. Hall, W. T. Cline, J. G. Tucker, M. C. Foltz, C. L. Peterson, O. L. Markman, G. R. Goodman, O. B. Allen, H. C. Brown, M. A. Souers, C. H. Todd, G. E. Whitten, Bayne D. Wilson, Dale Harmon.

EDITORIAL NOTE: To Vol E. Richardson should go the credit for most of the information regarding First Methodist Church.)

NEWSPAPER HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

By Orian W. Metcalf, News Editor, Mt. Vernon Register-News (From an address delivered before the Jefferson County Historical Society in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, December 9, 1947, at the Casey Junior High School)

In delving through the Wall and Perrin histories I made an interesting discovery. Following the lineage of the original printing press and the ones which came after it, and the printing equipment, I find that the Register-News can be said to trace its ancestry to the first newspaper ever started in this county. Through successive owners, the press and type passed to the Mt. Vernon Exponent and then the News. The News is the older half of the combination Register-News.

Mr. Perrin, as most of you have read, said that Jefferson County by 1883 was a great newspaper graveyard. So it was and so it continued until 1929. Since that date, The Register-News has prospered and expanded and today has a larger circulation and more advertising than any newspaper in the Little Egypt part of the state.

The first newspaper was started here by John S. Bogan, "Uncle Johnny," as he was fondly called by two generations. Mr. Bogan was a native of Virginia, where he was born March 6, 1820, at Woodstock, Shenandoah County, about the time the town of Mt. Vernon was getting started. His father, a captain in the War of 1812, was a printer and a publisher of papers in Woodstock, Virginia, and in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Later the father had clerkship appointments in Washington which he lost when Grant's administration moved in. There were twelve children in the Bogan family and one of them, Susan, became the wife of George H.

Varnell who made a fortune in Washington, D. C., and came to Mt. Vernon where he was a tycoon of the post-Civil War days...

John S. Bogan was apprenticed as a printer when he was fourteen years of age. In 1843, at the age of 23, he left the printshop and went to the farm because of ill health. He farmed near Washington until 1846, when he came to Jefferson County and to live in Grand Prairie Township. He stayed on the farm in the northwest part of the county until 1851, when he moved to Mt. Vernon and started the first newspaper here, THE JEFFERSONIAN.

In the fall of 1854 he sold his newspaper. At various times he held the offices of school director, constable and deputy sheriff. From 1854 until 1888 he was circuit clerk of Jefferson County.

He was married in 1842 to Miss Louisa Margaret Burnette, a native of Virginia, and they had five children -- Sarah E. who became the wife of Marcus Goodale and the mother of Miss Lois Goodale; Mary C., who married William T. Goodrich; Hannah, who married Newton C. Pace; and two sons, William and John Frank.

John Frank Bogan will be remembered as the city editor of The Register from 1917 until 1920 and of the Register-News from 1920 until his death on December 8, 1937. During the last five years of his life he had the general supervision of the news department of the newspaper, to which position I was appointed a few weeks after his death.

Now, let us get back to our first editor. T. B. Tanner heard that the Grand Prairie farmer, Mr. Bogan, was a printer. He rode out to see him. The conversation was long and thorough, Mr. Tanner staying a couple of days at the Bogan home -- for in those days one couldn't whiz back to town on the Richview Road in a matter of minutes. Mr. Tanner, a Democrat -- as most of the early settlers of this county seem to have been -- wanted a Democratic newspaper, a party organ. The upshot of the long talk was that Bogan moved to town and founded his newspaper.

He started out signing up subscribers and took up $156 in subscriptions which were at the rate of $1.50 per year. In other words, he had 104 paid up subscribers. "A pause ensued," in the words of A. Clark Johnson. Then things got to rolling again when H. T. Pace inquired how much money was needed to start publication and offered to loan the amount -- $200 -- taking notes due in one and a half years.

Bogan bought an old Rammage press in Belleville, and it is from this press that I find The Register-News plant is a direct descendant.

The historian Adam Clark Johnson describes the first Jeffersonian issue of August, 1851: a modest sheet, six-column size, and said that it enjoyed a circulation of 600 copies. But remember -- only 104 of them were cash subscribers.

I have in my possession a copy of volume two, number 30, dated May 6, 1853. It is titled "The Mt. Vernon Jeffersonian" and in its masthead carries the slogan "The Union Forever." Its office is given as over S. G. Hicks Store. Advertising was $1 for 12 lines, 25¢ for successive insertions. The advertisements of seven lawyers, three doctors, the sheriff and county judge appear on page one.

The page one news includes a contributed poem entitled "Awake Sweet Muse," "Be Thou the Bright Morning Star;" a story, apparently fiction, "The Life of a Coquette;" a piece telling farmers they ought to beautify even a log cabin with shrubs and raise grapes; and a column-length article about the absolute power of the Russian Czar. Not very hot news, even in 1853. At that time Robert Ingersoll, the great agnostic, at the age of seventeen was head of the Academy, a seat of learning here.

On another page I found an advertisement of J. J. Fly for coffins and a picture of his product. John N. Johnson quoted prices for produce including up to 20¢ per bushel for corn, ham 6¢ per pound, bacon 6¢ per pound, butter 10¢, beef $2.50 per hundred. Chickens were $1 and $2 per dozen, eggs 8¢; whiskey was a real bargain -- 23¢ per gallon. One medicine company advertized that its compound would cure rheumatism. William B. Thorne was advertising his hotel on the southwest corner of the square under the name Virginia House.

Bogan wrote that by Divine permission the Rev. J. Edwards would preach at the Methodist church Sunday and that the pupils of the Female Seminary, who were taught by Ingersoll's stepmother, had a delightful celebration Monday last. Real estate wasn't moving very fast, for E. McAtee put an ad in on February 17, and it was still running in May, trying to sell "A desirable residence -- 3 rooms, kitchen, stable, buggy house, corn crib, cistern of excellent water, double front, choice

fruit trees and shrubbery." (And of course instead of a bath it had a path.) The county's population then was 8,107.

So much for what Bogan's paper looked like. In three years his subscribers and his business were hopelessly in arrears. Pace sued on his notes, and Bogan went under. Mr. Tanner reproached himself as the cause of Bogan's misfortune and he made a deal with the judge, Downing Baugh -- they didn't have supervisors in those days-- whereby Tanner resigned his job as circuit clerk and Bogan was appointed to the vacancy. Bogan took office in September, 1854.

In August of that year he sold his Rammage press--our ancestor --to Bowman and Robinson for $325 in gold, the former a son of wealthy St. Louis parents and the latter fresh from California. Robinson soon quit, and Bowman--the rich man's son--persevered for six months when he sold to Dodds, Johnson and Company.

Dodds, Johnson and Company was formed for the sole purpose of running the Jeffersonian in a publicity campaign against the sale of 19,000 acres of swamp land the county owned. They wanted to hold the land for later use in trying to bring a railroad to the county. Mr. Tanner, who started Bogan, became the editor. He didn't like the old Rammage press so he bought another one from Frank Manley, a former printer of Bogan's, at Grayville, Illinois. This press now enters the printers' ink blood line. The subscription list was run up to 1,200 -- that's easy to do on credit, you know. When the county voted not to sell the swamp lands they were through with publishing. However, they were very generous with their equipment and fell into the course of giving the use of the press to anybody who would take it and publish a paper.

Next, William Anderson, Tom Casey and Tanner decided to try their hands at publishing. They took over the Jeffersonian equipment and changed the name of the paper to THE SENTINEL, in 1856. It was a typographical headache -- full of mistakes. Tanner couldn't write and, when the paper came out, couldn't recognize the finished product as his own creation. One of the famous typographical boners of this sheet was the announcement that "all club members who can sin are invited to join the chorus."

In 1857 John A. Wall and William Hollingsworth bought the press and equipment and on credit re-christened the paper the

The EGYPTIAN TORCHLIGHT. They went broke and then Ed Satterfield issued the paper for a few weeks.

Later in 1857 S. Turner Brown bought the paper, again on credit. He named it the ANOGTE. He lasted a few months, and once more the original owners let Ed Satterfield carry on until publication of the delinquent tax lists of 1858.

In 1858 J. R. Satterfield bought the newspaper office from Dodds, Johnson and Co. for $250. He sold it to a couple of abolitionists from Michigan who changed the name to THE MT. VERNON STAR and lasted one year, when Satterfield foreclosed. Then the Satterfield boys, Ed and John, took over and ran it until the close of the Civil War. Ralph Pavitt, who has a hobby of collecting newspapers of all kinds and ages, has a copy of the Star.

Believe me, Mr. Lincoln and the Northern government were very tolerant or they wouldn't have allowed the Star to appear for a day. In the masthead the paper is vowed to be "Devoted to the Interests of Jefferson County and the Extinction of the Abolition Republican Party." The newspaper was published in an upstairs office in the court house. In it, an article signed "Copperhead" assailed a Methodist preacher for abolitionism. Lincoln was castigated as one whose "sole aim seemed to be freeing of Negroes and placing them on an equality with white men." The definition of a slanderous appellation, in use even today, was given as one "hostile to democracy and the institution of slavery." The Star recorded that beef was on sale Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at the old post office and that General Morgan (the notorious raider) was in Indiana "recruiting for Confederate service."

Starting in 1860 Mt. Vernon had two newspapers. THE GUARDIAN appeared. It lasted until 1863. It was the county's first Republican newspaper. With it a third press appeared on the scene, but we're not related to it.

In 1863 John A. Wall came home from the Army after campaigns in which he was wounded and captured by the rebels. He bought the Guardian and gave his paper the name UNCONDITIONAL UNIONIST. He had 1,500 subscribers, mainly soldiers. Wall was just as pro North as the Star was anti-Lincoln. Once he was waylaid and beaten, an act which he blamed the Copperheads for. Wall lasted three years and then pulled out.

The new owners called their paper THE UNIONIST, which folded in the summer of 1867. I have two copies of this paper in fair condition. A December 5, 1866, edition holds the information that the hack line fare to Ashley connecting with the I. C. Railroad was $1.50. The editor appeals for his subscribers to pay up and for "hardened Democrats to atone for their sins and save their souls by joining the Republican party." It tells of brigandage in Turkey, trade reform disorders in England, and Fenian rebellion in Ireland.

The STATESMAN was the successor to the Unionist. Henry Hitchcock, from Indiana, bought the type and fixtures in 1867, and he ran the paper until 1873 when he had trouble with his wife and sold out.

Now, going back to the original printers' ink blood line: Clark Johnson records that C. L. Hayes bought the STAR and on December 6, 1865, issued his first paper under the name THE FREE PRESS, which he moved out of the court house and to a room over Tom Goodrich's store, where it was burned in the great Phoenix Block fire of March 16, 1869. Destroyed was the second press brought to the county--the successor to Bogan's old Rammage--but friends (and Democrats) rallied to his aid and in a month after the fire he had a new press and resumed publication. He published in his columns the first history of Jefferson County and spent $100 in helping Clark Johnson gather up source material for the sketches which appeared from week to week in his columns.

These sketches, it seems to me, were the framework on which all local recorded history has been built, and I am of the opinion that Clark Johnson is the real historian of our county rather than Perrin and Wall. Hayes sold out in 1872 and the paper had various owners until 1880 when it was consolidated with the NEWS. Thus it is from the Free Press and its predecessors that The Register-News can be said to date back to 1851 and The Mt. Vernon Jeffersonian.

In 1879 THE JEFFERSON COUNTY GREENBACK was organized with $2,000 capitalization. It lasted until 1888, when it too was taken over by the News.

And now we come to THE NEWS -- twelfth paper started in Jefferson County. September 2, 1871 was the date of the first issue of a progressive new sheet published by Lawrence F. Tromley as a Republican

paper. Previous newspapers had been four pages. Tromley brought out an eight-page paper. The inside pages came to him from Belleville, already printed up, with patent medicine ads and the kind of stories we now call fillers.

Tromley and his brother, Theodore, sold out in 1876 and it had two different owners until its purchase November 28, 1877, by H. H. Simmons. Mr. Simmons made it a Democratic paper and was the first publisher here to combine business ability with editorial skill. A widely travelled Eastern man, he was able to collect from his subscribers and sell enough advertising to prosper. He took over the Greenback and the Free Press and for a time called his paper THE NEWS AND FREE PRESS.

There were other papers: THE SUCKER STATE lasted for a little over a year in 1873-1874. It was the successor to The Statesman. THE JEFFERSON COUNTY DEMOCRAT was brought out in 1894 by J. Frank Bogan. It was combined with The News after a short life. THE MT. VERNON TIMES came out about 1900. Its equipment was sold to Dahlgren. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, early 1900's, was published by the Stelles. Circulation was in the thousands.

Now we come to another branch of The Register-News family tree -- THE WEEKLY EXPONENT. It was founded in Casey, Illinois, by Edward Hitchcock in 1876. The Republicans of Jefferson County asked Mr. Hitchcock to locate in Mt. Vernon "and to bring hither his printing press and material." He did so, and the first number of Volume Three of the Exponent was issued in Mt. Vernon on December 5, 1879. His office was upstairs in The Crews Building -- now the Mammoth location.

I have two copies of The Exponent from which I have gleaned the information that in 1883 Mt. Vernon had a total of nine teachers--seven in the grade school, one for "infants" or kindergarten, and one for high school. D. H. Wise was advertising clothing, which he sold in the Crews Building. George Ward was advertising his clothing store with a bean guessing game, offering $110 in prizes. The home exchange of the telephone company had eighteen subscribers. Col. Malone gave a watermelon to the editor. The mayor ordered a cleanup of the city. The Mt. Vernon Brass Band gave a concert in front of Johnson's Drug Store and the music was telephoned at the same time to listening friends in Ashley and Centralia, a marvel of the age.

Ralph Pavitt has a September 8, 1880 copy of The Exponent which describes in great detail "Mob-Ocracy at Spring Garden" where "Democratic Bulldozers" threw bricks and coal at Republicans in an effort to prevent Thomas J. Williams from making a speech. According to Mr. Hitchcock the church meeting place was filled with "intelligent people" and a "drunken beastly mob" outside was cursing and making beastly remarks. He described in detail the gauntlet of jeering men which the Republicans ran in making their way from Mt. Vernon to Spring Garden.

Other items of interest to me included an advertisement of Land, Solomon and Company, established the year before, now The Mammoth. "The Opdyke Lands" were offered for sale by George Opdyke and Company of New York. Then there was an item that the whiskey barrel ran low at a Democratic meeting at Shawneetown. The editor, who was a Republican and carried a temperance column, recorded that a party of ladies from Mt. Vernon made the trip by train to the Shawneetown meeting and had to stand for six hours because the men on the excursion wouldn't give them seats. The Cornet Band offered to furnish music for entertainments at reasonable rates--Petrillo hadn't been heard of. The Continental Hotel offered a free omnibus to all trains. The weather on printing day was 63, "delightfully bracy." The presidential ticket was Garfield and Arthur, and "Glorious News from Vermont" was to the effect that Republicans would win by 25,000 to 30,000 majority.

In 1884 Hitchcock sold out to Morris Emmerson, who changed the name of the paper to MT. VERNON REGISTER. It became a daily in December, 1892. Emmerson required cash in advance on subscriptions and made a financial success of the newspaper. He was secretary of the Citizens Committee charged with responsibility for handing out relief funds after the great tornado of February 19, 1888, and the entire receipts and disbursements were published in one issue in The Register.

I discovered in reading that issue that practically every state and territory in the land, cities and villages, large and small, sent money to help stricken Mt. Vernon get on its feet. Emmerson wrote that the committee started out by rebuilding the wrecked homes of every poor family in town. Then they repaired the homes of poor families, in both cases restoring them according to the circumstances

in which the family lived before the storm. In other words, when they built a new home they didn't give the man a more pretentious one than he owned before. Then they repaired and rebuilt the houses and business buildings of everyone else, regardless of circumstance. They still had money left over, and they divided that pro-rata according to damage sustained among all of the business men of the town who had losses in the cyclone.

Emmerson sold to Maurice J. Seed. Emmerson later published dailies at Lincoln, Illinois, and in Colorado. He came back to Mt. Vernon after giving up publishing and became the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. His daughters still reside here and he has a grandson, Maurice Lee Green, who is a newspaperman on the Chicago Tribune.

Seed made the Register hum. He installed linotypes, went out after news, advertising and subscriptions, and when he sold out in 1920 meant to retire in Florida. He did go to Florida, but lost a lot of money in the land boom, and went back into newspaper work. He was circulation manager of the Daytona Beach Morning News when he died in 1947. Seed sold his interests to Norman J. Sugg, who combined the newspaper with the News to form THE REGISTER-NEWS, a firm in which he and J. Edwin Rackaway were the stockholders.

Going back to the News: Mr. Simmons sold out and ended his days in Mt. Vernon as a "typo" on the same paper. John Grear, who later bought the Herrin Journal, and J. J. Baker were the next publishers. Then R. F. Pace bought out Grear and sold to William T. Sumner. Occasionally we still read about Mr. Sumner's bear hunts down in Mississippi in the "As You Were" column of The Register-News.

Other Mt. Vernon capitalists were interested in the ownership, including the late Judge Wm. H. Green. Edwin Rackaway joined the News in 1913 after graduating from the Denver, Colorado journalistic school of hard knocks where he learned the angles of the newspaper game from police reporter to special writer on presidential politics.

In 1920 the printers of The Register and The News went out on strike. At that time Mr. Rackaway bought control of the News which he entered in the consolidation with Sugg's Register. They made the consolidated newspaper non-partisan.

Thus, the Register-News is a combination of: Free Press 1865, Greenback 1879, News 1871, Exponent 1878, Register 1883, and Democrat 1894 -- six newspapers.

There were other newspapers: THE DAILY JOURNAL was published by Pavey and Phillips in the early 1900's. THE HERALD, an excellent newspaper, Democratic in politics, appeared in 1920 and ran until 1929. THE DAILY REPUBLICAN had its first edition April 23, 1900. I don't know what happened to it. THE IRA OBSERVER is the only newspaper now published in the county outside of Mt. Vernon. There was once a weekly at Waltonville, THE SEARCHLIGHT, published by L. S. Braden -- There were twenty-four recorded newspapers. Perhaps there were others. Wall wasn't specific about his facts on what happened after the 1883 milepost left by Perrin.

The News has maintained its name longer than any other Mt. Vernon newspaper. Started as a Republican paper, it changed to Democratic and prospered. It turned to non-partisanship in 1920. The Register was steadfastly Republican until the consolidation.

Unrecorded by Wall or Perrin was the great change in newspapers from party organs to successful business establishments. You will remember Mr. Bogan started out in the business with $156 in subscriptions and a $200 loan. That was in the days when they used to say all an editor needed was a broken down press and a shirt-tail full of type. By 1879 the business was more expensive. It took $2000 to finance The Jefferson County Greenback. Today a second hand linotype would cost over twice as much.

Then came the dailies. Both The News and the Register bought linotypes. There was a time when manpower turned the press. Charlie Thompson has told me that one of his early jobs on the News was to act as the motor, turning a crank. Then they put motors on the presses.

In 1917 both the News and The Register bought flat bed Goss Webb presses, which printed from long rolls of paper instead of the flat sheets in use previously. These presses had 3,000 per hour speed. In 1925, a year after he had taken over Sugg's interest in the paper, Mr. Rackaway bought a tubular press. This press turned out newspapers from revolving tubular plates at the rate of 18,000 an hour. Since 1929 The Register-News has been the only daily published in Mt. Vernon.

My connection with the newspaper began in 1917 when I started carrying papers for The Register. My old route had 75 papers at first. Today there are several thousand Register-News subscribers in the same territory in the southwest part of town. It was my privilege to know Billie Goodrich, Maurice J. Seed, Norman J. Sugg and J. Frank Bogan, who have passed from the newspaper scene here.

I remember seeing John A. Wall come to the Register office to deliver the notes for the column signed "UNOWHO" which The Register ran on the front page. Mr. Wall was a grand old figure in journalism here. He wrote in his history that he was the printer's devil who inked the forms at the pulling of the first paper from that old Rammage press. Later he was an editor himself in Mt. Vernon, Salem and elsewhere.

In 1928 The Register-News obtained daily Associated Press teletype service. Until then the newspaper, and the News and Register before it, got daily reports on what was called pony news service. This consisted of five, ten and fifteen minute telephone calls at stated hours of the day from the St. Louis office of the Associated Press and the International News Service.

The News had the advantage of Associated Press membership which it took into the consolidation. The Register had the advantage of a contract for newsprint with the International Paper Company. The latter has proved to be one of the greatest assets of the business. Throughout World War Two, paper was rationed, first by the government and later by the paper companies. Because of its contract, dating back to 1913, The Register-News was guaranteed a paper supply, although it was forced to go into the open market to stretch the supply.

Mt. Vernon had a population of 1,167 when The News was started. It was incorporated as a city the following year.

In recent years The Register-News has recorded: the Herrin massacre of 1922, the West Frankfort cyclone of 1925, the Hight-Sweetin murder case of 1924, the Binger-Shelton gang wars, the great depression, and World War Two to which our county sent 4,111 men and women, far more than ten per cent of its 33,000 population. The newspaper has recorded--or has tried to record--every birth and every death in Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County. News of churches, saloons, politics, schools, courts, and government are given coverage.

Typographical errors are an ever-feared bugaboo. Back before the consolidation, one of the ministers turned in his church notes to The Register and also to The News. He couldn't write very well and the printers on both papers made the same mistake. The subject of his sermon was to be "Absalom on a Mule." It came out in The News and the Register, "A Blossom on a Mule."

--Orian D. Metcalf

MT. CATHERINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Mt. Catherine Christian Church, located about four miles northwest of Woodlawn in Casner Township, was among the first of the churches to be established in this vicinity. The exact date it was organized is not known.

The first additions which were recorded in the old church book were November 15, 1851. There were four added at that time: Owen Bare (born December 4, 1782, died June 15, 1865), Catherine Bare, wife of Owen (born August 17, 1790, died October 30, 1864), Elias Gaskins (born 1797, died April 20, 1881), and Mary A. Gaskins (born December 10, 1812, died May 11, 1895). Two more were added in 1852: Anis and Elizabeth Troutt. In 1853 two more came: John Troutt and Martha Williams. In 1862 there were fifteen additions, in 1863 there were twenty; and in 1865 there were thirty more additions, and the church grew year by year.

These were pioneer families of this area and because of their love for the Lord and their desire to have a church in the community in which they lived, Mt. Catherine Christian Church had been established.

The first services held were in the home of Owen and Catherine Bare. People would come from miles around on foot, on horseback or any other mode of travel of that day. They would stay over the weekend, and Catherine would prepare meals for them. Though she had only a hearth on which to cook, she would prepare food for as many as thirty-five people on some occasions.

Later services were held for a while in a little log school house which stood in the southwest corner of what is now the old cemetery. The benches in this school were made of split logs mounted on

pegs or legs. But as the church grew there was a need for a church building, so a small house was built near the present site. This building was made out of hewn boards.

About the year 1886 the front part of the present building was erected on the hill north of the present location, where the new cemetery is now. Then as the congregation grew there was a need to enlarge this building; so it was moved to the present site and an annex added. In 1951 this building was again enlarged and a basement put under it.

The church was not always active, for there is a record of the church being reorganized in 1886 - the same year in which the building was erected north of the present location.

The church was named for Catherine Bare. She also has descendants named for her in each generation, even to the present time. Many of the members of the church today are descendants of these two pioneer couples (the Bares and the Gaskins') whose names head the long list of members of the Mt. Catherine Christian Church. Owen and Catherine Bare, Elias and Mary Gaskins are buried in the adjoining cemetery, known as "the old cemetery" just a little south of the church house. Many have been laid to rest in this beloved spot. The church stands today, a place of worship, a beloved and cherished place in the hearts of many people.

--Mrs. Fern Moore

THE FIRST WHITE FAMILY

The first white family that settled in what was to become Jefferson County, Illinois, was the family of Andrew Moore. This family came to and settled in what is now known as Moores Prairie Township. This political subdivision is located in the southeast part of the county in a rural area, and it received its name from the Moore family. This family were natives of a southern state, but they had a desire to come to the northern country and settle in virgin territory in the hope that they would find financial security.

Some earlier reports state that the family first settled in Franklin County a few miles south of their location on the "Prairie."

Andrew and family made their settlement in Jefferson County in 1810. They moved to this area from the Goshen settlement in the adjoining county. It is believed that the Goshen Road got its name from this settlement.

Historic information concerning the place where Andrew Moore erected his cabin and the location of the Goshen Road is conflicting. Some reports are to the effect that his new home was built on the Goshen Road, while others contend that it was located a few miles north of this early trail. The latter is four miles south and one mile east of the village of Belle Rive. A short distance from this place is where the first white person was buried in Jefferson county. A more detailed account of this burial is found elsewhere in this volume. The Old Goshen Road passes by the historic Sugar Camp Baptist Church in the southeast part of the county.

Although we are unable to learn the exact location where the Moore family built their new home, we know that Andrew and his family found the countryside very lonely, as their closest white neighbors were fifteen or twenty miles away. There were Indians passing through the area where the Moore family began housekeeping in their prarie home, but these people did not provide the kind of company that they desired.

Andrew Moore erected a double cabin that was made of hickory poles with the fireplace in the center of the building, with the chimney running straight up. This type of dwelling was as comfortable as one could expect for that place and period. The Moore family, like other pioneers, settled and lived in virgin territory, and experienced all the hardships that go with it. They were in constant danger of roving Indians, though Moore himself did not seem to be fearful of them, and were always on the alert for wild beasts that would devour their livestock at every opportunity.

The life of Jefferson County's first family was spent mostly by themselves; although an adventurous traveler would occasionally pass through the country and stop at their cabin for a visit, such visits were few and far between. Their stay on the Prairie was truly the pioneer type of life. Andrew spent his time in hunting, fishing, and cutting timber for firewood for the family fireplace. He cleared a small acreage of land and grew some grain and vegetables to provide

food for the family. The closest school and church were many miles from the Moore home, and social life was unknown to the family. However, Andrew Moore was the type of person who preferred to have a freedom all his own. He preferred to live in the virgin country, among the wild beasts and hostile Indians, and apparently saw no fear in either. He preferred this to making his home in a settled community that had developed the sort of civilization that was in existence in that early day. Andrew did not burn any bridges behind him, as there were no bridges to burn.

The Moore family continued to live in their prairie home for some time; some authorities say they were there until 1812, while others say 1814 or 1815. The war of 1812 began two years after the family settled in what was to become Jefferson County. There is no record that he served in that conflict, and it is doubtful that he served in any previous war unless it might have been some skirmishes with Indians.

The first white family of Jefferson County met with tragedy. After the Moore family had lived in this area a few years, Andrew and a son, who was eight or ten years of age, started one day on horseback to Jordan's Mill, which was located a few miles east of "Old Frankfort," to get some corn meal for the family. Their plans were to return that evening, but when the appointed time had arrived for their return they were not to be seen. Mrs. Moore was fearful that something of a tragic nature had happened, and after awaiting about two days for their return she took the other children and started out in search of her husband and son.

They followed the path that was used to travel to Jordan's Mill; and after reaching the place they learned to their grief that Andrew and the son had been to the mill, had gotten their meal and started home the same day they came. She was now convinced that they had met with foul play. It was only natural that her first thoughts were that her husband and son had been kidnapped by Indians in the vicinity, or that the red men had killed both of them and seized the meal and horses.

The anguish and heartaches that Mrs. Moore suffered as the result of this tragic event cannot be adequately expressed. She

begged for help to make a search through the wooded area along the trail, and as many of the men in the vicinity as dared to leave the settlement formed a posse to conduct a search. The search continued for days, and the woods were scoured carefully, but no trace of the missing ones could be found. After they had traveled and searched the area for miles they abandoned the search, but did so with considerable reluctance.

Mrs. Moore felt that she could not live in "the Prairie" with no other white settlers in the immediate vicinity. She therefore packed her few possessions, and she and the children went to Equality, Illinois, near the Saline Community where she had formerly lived. This was in the vicinity of the Saline Salt Works.

Within a year or two after Andrew Moore and the son had disappeared, some hunters found a skull hanging on the limb of an elm tree and reported this to the grief-stricken Mrs. Moore. She said that if it was her husband's skull there would be a certain tooth missing from the upper jaw. Upon examination, it was found that the tooth that was missing from the skull was in the same location of the missing tooth of her husband. The skull was found within a mile or so from Moore's home, and was to the south of their cabin near a creek. The heartbroken Mrs. Moore took the skull home with her and preserved it sacredly for the remainder of her life.

It was an accepted belief of the early settlers of that area that Moore and his son were attacked by a band of Indians who were jealous of the white race, killed Andrew and cut his head off, then placed the skull on the tree and took the boy, the horses and meal with them. It was believed that Moore's body was devoured by wild beasts that roamed the area.

One report is carried to the effect that after Mrs. Moore had lived in the Saline vicinity a few years her brother, a Mr. Bales, his son-in-law, a Mr. Fannin, and a Mr. Fipps who was married to Mrs. Moore's daughter, moved up to "the Prairie" and Mrs. Moore returned with them. It is not known how long Mrs. Moore lived in this area after she moved the second time.

THE FIRST WHITE BURIAL

The first known burial of a white person in Jefferson County was that of William Perry Maxey, infant sun of Henry B. (or Burchette) and Margaret Maxey. One historian states that Margaret's name was Peggy and another that the baby's name was Wm. Perigan and that he was called Perigan. This death and burial occurred in what is now known as Moores Prairie Township on May 11, 1818. The child was ten months of age at the time of death, and according to legend the first death and burial in Jefferson County was in the nature of an emergency.

Burchette and Margaret Maxey migrated from a southern state (presumably Tennessee) to a location four miles south and one mile east of the present village of Belle Rive. Legend has it that their baby died on the above date, while they were moving from one location to another, and that they first buried the infant under some leaves for fear some Indians that roamed the area would see them digging a grave and would later remove the body and carry it away. The body was left under the leaves until dark, when they dug a grave and buried the first white person in what was to become Jefferson County the following year. This death and burial occurred six months and twenty-two days before Illinois became a state.

Approximately a century after the death of the Maxey infant, a group of men who carried the same surname decided to erect a suitable marker at the head of William's grave for the benefit of posterity and history. The people who arranged for the erection of his marker were: J. S. Maxey, J. H. Maxey, A. F. Maxey, O. S. Maxey and Dr. Moss Maxey.

THE MAXEY FAMILY

(Walter S. Maxey, while living in Los Angeles, California, in 1925 compiled a history of the Maxey family entitled "Some of the Descendents of Walter Maxey of Wales." This information is taken from his book.)

In the later years of the seventeenth century, Walter Maxey, a native of Wales, emigrated from his native land to France, married a French girl and reared a family while residing in France. About 1725 the three sons of Walter Maxey, John, Edward and Horatio, set sail for America and settled in Maryland near where the city of Baltimore

is now located. John Maxey later moved to Maine, and his brother Horatio moved to the Northwest Territory and settled what was later the state of Ohio.

Edward remained at his Maryland home and reared his family, which consisted of two or more sons and several daughters. Edward was married after his arrival in the colonies. He was married to a French woman in Maryland, but soon after his marriage moved to New River, Virginia, and remained there until after the close of the Revolutionary War.

Jessie Maxey, son of Edward, enlisted in the American Army September 22, 1782, and served until October 21, 1782. He was assigned to Lincoln Militia under Captain Samuel Kirkham guarding Salt Works. Jesse was born in Maryland about 1750. He was the father of four sons and one daughter: William, Edward, Walter, John and Elizabeth. William Maxey, eldest child of Jesse Maxey, was born September 12, 1770. Dates of birth of the other children of Jesse Maxey are unknown.

A few years after the close of the war with Great Britain, Jesse Maxey and family, along with several other families, moved from Maryland to Sumner County, Tennessee. After their arrival in this state, they built a log fort for protection against the Indians, but on one occasion Jesse Maxey wandered too far away and was attacked by some Indians and was scalped. He was left for dead, but he survived and lived about another twenty years. This tragedy was in 1788. Jesse died about 1808 and was buried at Douglas Cemetery about three miles north of Gallatin, Tennessee. The children of Jesse Maxey continued to live in that vicinity for another ten years.

William Maxey, the oldest of all Maxey's who ever lived in Jefferson County, Illinois, was married in Tennessee. He was married to Mary Emily Allen, daughter of Rhoda Allen, February 14, 1793. William and Mary Maxey had eleven children: Clarissa, Henry Burchett, Bennett H., Elihu, Harriet, Vylinda A., Charles H., Joshua C., Hostillina, William M. A., and Jehu.

In the spring of 1818 William Maxey and family decided to leave their Tennessee home and journey to the Illinois country. Clarissa was married to James Johnson and Burchett was married to Margaret Taylor. The entire family of William Maxey, including the

son-in-law and daughter-in-law and a Negro girl, Eliza, left Gallitan, Tennessee, on April 20, 1818, on their long and dangerous journey to Illinois. There were twenty-one persons in the party. William Maxey was 48 years of age and served as leader of the party. They arrived in Moores Prairie, Illinois, on May 9, 1818, having been a total of nineteen days on their journey.

William Perry Maxey (some say the middle name was Perigan), small son of Burchette and Margaret Maxey, died on May 11, 1818, two days after the arrival of the twenty-one people in Moores Prairie. Legend has it that the baby had been ill during the long journey.

The twenty-one who arrived in Moores Prairie in May, 1818, spent the remainder of the summer in the east central part of what is now Moores Prairie Township of Jefferson County. As they were farmers from childhood, it was only natural that their first pursuit would be to engage in agriculture. They planted and cultivated a small acreage of grain and enclosed it with a brush fence. Wild game was plentiful in all directions, and venison could always be had in abundance. There was plenty of wild honey to be found close to their new home.

Zadok Casey visited with the William Maxey family that summer and told them that they had stopped too soon, that paradise was about fifteen miles northwest of there. They remained in their new home until the autumn season of 1818, then moved to a farm a few miles northwest of Mt. Vernon. William Maxey located on a farm adjoining that of Zadok Casey's and remained there until the death of his first wife in 1837. His son Burchett and family and James Johnson, his son-in-law and family located on farms nearby. Johnson lived the remainder of his life on this estate.

As stated elsewhere, the community of Mt. Vernon had its beginning in 1819. Twenty acres of land was donated for the seat of justice, and the Act of the General Assembly provided that the land that was not used for the court yard was to be sold as town lots for residents to build on, the funds to be deposited in the Treasury. The sale of lots in the new settlement began a short time afterwards. Some of these lots were sold in September, 1819, and Burchette Maxey purchased one of these. Burchette had the honor of erecting the first dwelling house in Mt. Vernon. Burchette and Margaret Maxey were the

parents of ten children, and as far as is known all of them lived to reach adulthood except William Perigan, who lies buried in Moores Prairie.

Edward Maxey, a younger brother of William Maxey, did not come to Jefferson County with the Maxey colony, but came to this area in the autumn of 1818. He was married to Elizabeth Pitner in Tennessee. Edward and his wife had no children, but they adopted several children and reared them. Two of these children were James W. Murry and John R. Satterfield, who played a prominent role in public life in Jefferson County. The history of the First Methodist Church of Mt. Vernon states that this church was organized in the home of Edward Maxey. Edward was Justice of the Peace for twenty years, served as County Commissioner and taught school. He was a clergyman of the Methodist faith. He passed away about the middle of the nineteenth century, and his wife died soon after.

John Maxey, youngest son of Jesse Maxey, did not come to Illinois until 1823. William and Johnathan Wells accompanied him on the trip. He lived in Jefferson County for a few years, then moved to Wayne County, Illinois and died there. John Maxey had four children: Stephen, Theodosia (married Rev. Joseph Hellums), Elizabeth (married Greenbury Wells) and Katie (married Jesse Breeze of Walnut Hill, Illinois).

Much could be written about the descendents of William Maxey and the part they played in developing Jefferson County, but space does not permit. They have done much in developing the county.

THE MT. VERNON REGISTER-NEWS

(By Orian Metcalf, News Editor)

"The greatest service the Register-News can render the citizens of Mt. Vernon is to give them the truth. The truth is often an elusive thing, hard to come by, but we pursue it diligently." This is the creed of J. Edwin Rackaway, editor of the Mt. Vernon Register-News.

Volume 1, Number 1 of the Register-News was issued September 28, 1920. Mr. Rackaway was editor then and continues as editor and publisher of this daily newspaper today. The newspaper is a consolidation of the News, established in 1871, and the Register, which started

in 1882. Predecessors of the News date back to 1851 when the first Mt. Vernon newspaper, The Jeffersonian, was founded.

The story of the Register-News is largely the story of Editor Rackaway....his brilliant business leadership, his hard-hitting editorials, his terse and lucid news stories, and his fearless let-the-chips-fall-where-they-may policy.

Mr. Rackaway was born in Mt. Vernon in 1889. His first newspaper experience was in Colorado. He left college (University of Chicago) to become a police reporter and later a political writer for the Denver Republican and then the Denver Times. He covered the national convention of the Progressive (Bull Moose) party which nominated Theodore Roosevelt for president in 1912 and then returned to his home town that year to work on the Mt. Vernon News, first as business manager and then as editor.

Mr. Rackaway acquired ownership of the News from a group of stockholders and --on September 28, 1920-- combined his paper with the Mt. Vernon Register, owned by Norman J. Sugg. Mr. Rackaway became the editor and Mr. Sugg the business manager of the consolidated paper.

Mr. Sugg had bought the Register from Maurice J. Seed, who had operated it since 1902. Seed had acquired the Register from Morris Emmerson, who had owned it since 1884.

The News was allied with the Democratic party and the Register was the local organ for the Republican party. The consolidated newspaper proclaimed a policy of non-partisanism, with special favors for none. The consolidation gave Mt. Vernon one strong independent newspaper which has always been free from the domination of any political faction.

In 1924 Mr. Sugg sold his interests in the paper, and Editor Rackaway has continued ever since as publisher. Charles J. Thompson succeeded Mr. Sugg, serving until his death in 1959.

There have been other newspapers on the King City scene. Historians John A. Wall and William Henry Perrin in their 1909 and 1883 volumes record the passing of 24 dailies and weeklies between 1851 and 1909.

Another daily newspaper called the Herald was started in Mt. Vernon about a year after the consolidation. A Democratic party mouthpiece, it gave the Register-News fierce competition in its span

of life from 1921 to 1929. In continual financial difficulty, it had a succession of editors, business managers and disappointed stockholders before it finally drowned in bankruptcy. Well equipped, it had a staff of good people, some of whom are still prominent in the newspaper world elsewhere. It was just a case of no room in a small town for two newspapers.

The Register-News was a pioneer in radio operation. Its station, WABF, was on the air in the summer of 1923.

The News was published at 1117 Broadway and the Register at 1120 Main, in buildings still standing today. For the first five years the joint newspaper was printed at the Main Street office, and in 1925 the business moved to the present location at 118 North 9th Street. The 9th Street building was designed especially as a publishing plant. Modern printing machinery, including a rotary press, was installed.

In 1928 the Register-News started daily Associated Press teletype service to replace the former system of telephone and telegraph news connections. The newspaper has kept a step ahead of most small city dailies through modernization moves which have included installation of automatic equipment, automation in typesetting from punched tape, and electronic engraving. The Register-News increased its page size in 1957 to nine columns, and now publishes the largest volume of both news and advertising matter in southern Illinois.

This newspaper has always recorded the births and deaths of Jefferson County people and now extends this service into adjoining areas. The Register-News is the home paper of Jefferson, Wayne and Hamilton counties. It covers the news of churches and saloons, politics and schools, courts, city councils, state and national governments.

In its 42 years the Register-News has reported the heartaches of two wars ... and has joined with its subscribers, the home folks, in mourning those heroes who did not return.

In its microfilmed files are told the tragedies of the 1888 and 1957 tornadoes. Printed for the record are reports of murder trials, fires, floods, divorces, arrests, taxes and fights, along with happier news about state championship basketball games, sporting events, graduations, anniversaries and weddings.

The Register-News has had only one editor, Mr. Rackaway. It has had three business managers: Mr. Sugg, the late Charles J.

Thompson and Wm. C. Rackaway, son of the publisher. John Rackaway, elder son of the editor, is sports editor and president of the company.

The newspaper has had only two city editors. J. Frank Bogan was city editor of the Register and held that position with the consolidated newspaper until his death in 1938 at the age of 78. Orian Metcalf, who joined the Register-News as circulation manager in 1922, succeeded Mr. Bogan in charge of the news department with the title of News Editor, and continues as the managing editor. Guy Henry, who has been with the Register-News since 1932, is the second city editor.

Robert J. Thompson, son of the late Charles J. Thompson, is advertising manager and John McClure is circulation manager. Aubrey Crowder, who has been with the newspaper and its predecessors since 1913, is foreman of the composing room, having succeeded G. Leslie Shehorn who had held the position from 1924 until his death in 1960.

Most of the Register-News employees in 1962 have been on the staff for many years. Among them are Walter Huffstutler and Harold Lemons, stereotypers and pressmen; Lloyd Owens, and Jerry Musgrave, mailers; Jack Henry, Charles Allen, Edgar Dobbs, Arthur Fullerton, Orville Roney, Mrs. Homer Alred, Homer Tucker, William Shroyer, Robert Deitz, Richard Deitz and Charles Deitz, printers; Richard Harriss, machinist; Jerry Roney and Gordon Ramsey, printer apprentices; Walter Davis, maintenance; Robert Crider, press feeder.

In the business office are: Mrs. Aubrey Crowder, bookkeeper; Mrs. Charles J. Thompson, national advertising; Mrs. Charles Keaton, circulation; Annabelle Davenport, classified advertising; Mrs. Homer Tucker and Marcella Marlow, proofreaders; and James Dingfield, advertising.

Mrs. Glenn Purcell is society editor, and Mrs. Drayton Allison is assistant society editor.

MODERN WOODMEN

The oldest Modern Woodmen camp in Jefferson County is Camp No. 1919, Mt. Vernon, which was organized on February 27, 1893. This was but ten years after the parent society was organized. From the twenty-four charter members which comprised the first camp in Jefferson

County, the membership has continually grown until today there are 484 adult members and 201 junior members.

Credit for much of the grown and success of Modern Woodmen in Jefferson County can be given to Turner Maynor, a retired District Manager for the society in this area. Since his retirement, his daughter, Jane Maynor, has capably continued his energetic efforts to build Modern Woodmen in the county. Mr. Kenneth W. Bevis serves as secretary and local agent of the Mt. Vernon camp.

The remaining camps in the county are listed below:

Camp No. 6298, Belle Rive, was organized on March 22, 1899, with eighteen charter members. The membership today includes 57 adult members and 48 junior members. The present camp secretary and local agent is Mrs. Dorothy L. Pilson.

Thirteen charter members banded together on October 24, 1899, to form Camp No. 7133, Ina. There are presently 101 adult members and 41 junior members. These are served by Secretary Oscar Lee.

Camp No. 8027, Marlow, was organized April 25, 1900, with ten charter members. There are currently 60 adult and 25 junior members being served by Secretary Charles H. Shelton.

Camp No. 8299, Bluford, was organized on June 21, 1900, with 17 charter members. There are now 23 adult and 10 junior certificates in the camp, being served by Mr. G. E. Richardson, secretary.

February 3, 1903, was the organization date for Camp No. 3084, Dix, Illinois. From a modest beginning of 21 charter members, it has grown to a camp of 85 adults and 102 junior members. The present secretary is Mrs. Mabel A. Riley.

On January 10, 1906, Camp No. 7740, Waltonville, was organized with eleven charter members. The camp has grown until there are now 69 adult and 53 junior certificates being served by Mr. Marion Newell.

The most recently organized camp in Jefferson County is Camp No. 17524, Woodlawn. The charter was signed for this camp on November 21, 1952, with eighteen charter members. The present membership includes 31 adult and 58 junior certificate holders. Secretary is Mrs. Judith D. Wilson.

Modern Woodmen maintains seven Junior Clubs within Jefferson County in which the children perform services for the needy as well as

having recreation under the guidance of qualified leaders. These clubs provide solid foundations for future citizenship.

Modern Woodmen was founded on January 5, 1883, in Lyons, Clinton County, Iowa, when twenty-one men banded together under the leadership of Joseph Cullen Root, founder and first executive head, and formed Pioneer Camp No. 1. Mr. Root had conceived the idea of a new society which would embrace more territory than the one with which he was connected at the time....he little dreamed that the new one would grow from its humble beginning to be the most important of its kind, with camps covering the United States and the Canadian provinces.

With the thought of a new society uppermost in his mind, Mr. Root had attended, as was his custom, the regular church services in his home town of Lyons on a Sunday morning in July, 1882. In the sermon, delivered by Rev. Sydney Crawford, reference was made to woodmen clearing away a forest and of the many uses man made of the felled timbers. By the time the service was over, the name "Modern Woodmen of America" had firmly fixed itself in the founder's mind.

From the rather inauspicious start when progress was slow, the Modern Woodmen society has grown until now it is one of the outstanding life insurance organizations in the United States. It is now among the top ten per cent of America's more than 1200 life insurance organizations.

On January 1, 1960, Turner H. Maynor of Mt. Vernon retired after forty years of outstanding years as district manager for Modern Woodmen of America. Reluctant to completely sever his connection with Modern Woodmen's field force, he now holds a special agent contract. Ranking consistently among the top producers, the Maynor name is a familiar one to Modern Woodmen members and agents, as Turner is the oldest in years of service, though not in age, with the society.

MT. OLIVE GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Years ago, when the country around here was mostly covered with woods, two men named George Casner (in 1852) and John Hawkins, Jr. (in 1854) decided to settle in this territory. Mr. Casner cleared some land, built some fences, and entered the land in the records at

Shawneetown in his own name. The President of the United States signed the patent giving George Casner the title to the land. Mr. Casner and his wife had a son named Ramsey and after Mr. Casner was killed in an accident, this young man sold the farm to a trader on May 1, 1858, just six years and a month after his father had purchased it. Six months later the trader, Joel Scrivener, sold it to William Palmer, who kept it several years, and then it passed from hand to hand until on February 10, 1865, John Gentle purchased it and planned to make his home here.

Others settled in the community also, and the need for a cemetery and church arose. The first burial occurred about 1860 when William Palmer owned the land. The church was started in 1866 or 1867 (the records are incomplete). The land was deeded from John Gentle and his wife, Frances, to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which had been organized in the community. The land which was deeded was not the land where the church was built, due to an error in the land description, and on November 10, 1873, the mistake was rectified by properly describing this two-acre tract on which the cemetery and the little log church are located.

Several of the men of the community volunteered their services to build the little log church. The trees were cut on the place, were drug to the site of the church by a team, then adzed, squared off and placed in position by man power, quite different from the building of today.

Prior to the turn of the century, many of the older settlers had passed away and were buried in the cemetery. Some of their graves were marked with sand rock which soon became illegible. Many of the younger people had left home to work elsewhere, and at last there were only three members of the church left. They signed over the church and cemetery property to the community to take care of and preserve. After this there was no Sunday School or church held regularly, though prayer meetings were held on Thursday night, with some of the young people driving many miles to attend. There were double doors with a double button to fasten them, and more than once the young people would come to attend prayer meeting only to have to return home because no one knew how to open the double button.

[illegible]

About the turn of the century a Brother Mitchell of the Salvation Army was here. He conducted the services and his daughter played the tamberines. While he was here he started Sunday School and was superintendent during his stay.

A few years passed, and in 1904 some repair work was done. One log, the second from the bottom on the north side, was practically destroyed and had to be replaced. We tell of this occasion in the words of C. C. Jenkins: "I was just twelve years old and had come with Pa to get some logs from Mr. Mateer to help build Long Prairie Church. Mr. Mateer was cleaning out some woods and we came over to haul the logs. Down the road was this log church and some men outside. They told Pa about their trouble -- they had come to replace a big log, but the man who was to haul it couldn't come -- so Pa said we'd take time to help 'em out, and I drove the team that drug the log over to the church! Made me feel pretty grown up and good to get to help. I'll never forget it!" This was what was told at one of Mt. Olive's home-comings by Mr. Jenkins.

After the church was repaired, there were often revival meetings held here. Once a brush arbor was built for a special meeting. Cal Richardson, one of the best known country preachers of Jefferson County, and Blythe Reece, who had a peg leg, were holding this meeting in very warm weather. Wes Bundy, who lived a quarter of a mile away, always carried water to the meeting in a cedar bucket. A gourd was used to dring from, but on this particular occasion he forgot to bring the gourd. Reece, as they called him, wanted a drink and asked where the gourd was. The reply was that it had been forgotten and he would have to drink out of the bucket. The bail that had been on the bucket had been lost and replaced with a wire bail. When Mr. Reece tipped up the bucket to drink the wire bail fell over the back of his head and a practically full bucket of water was emptied in his face. Everybody had a good laugh, including "Reece", who had to have help getting the bucket off his head.

Many years elapsed during which revival meetings were held at the church but no regular services. By 1932 the church was really in a bad condition. The doors were gone, the roof had fallen in, the floor had rotted through and two of the sills needed replacing. The

neighbors who met to repair the church were: Jim Green, Charley Moore, E. Davis, George Baldridge, Rosier Green, Jerry Williams, Roy Green, Harry Culp, Cal Gentles, Oscar Gentles, Ben Woodworth and Riley Green. They also put in a new ceiling, filled in between the logs with chinking, put in new windows, whitewashed the walls and replaced the sills under the floor. The neighbor women brought dinner, and every body had a good time. Mr. B. Davis made a good talk at noon. As the group was talking, one of the men, Rosier Green, said "I wonder which of us here today will be the first one planted here." Not too many years later he was murdered by a burglar and became the first of that group to buried in the cemetery.

After the work on the church in 1932, the community was drawn closer together. Many had attended a revival at Salem Church, about two and a half miles northeast of Mt. Olive, and urged that a meeting be held at Mt. Olive to carry on the good work. One was, and forty persons were brought to Christ. Again regular services were held for two or three years before they were discontinued.

About 1937 or 1938, two ladies of the community, feeling that the children of the neighborhood should have a place to go to Sunday School, secured help and repaired the church and started a Sunday School which was held in the afternoon. Brother Michael, now deceased, a Union Sunday School missionary, helped organize a Union Sunday School, which increased in size as the years went by.

On August 15, 1942, Roy E. Green, Cal Gentle and Courtney Green, who were elected trustees of the cemetery, leased the real estate to H. B. Walters under the name and style of Trustees of the Mt. Olive Methodist Episcopal Church, which lease was assigned to the Kewanee Oil Company following which a communitization agreement was entered into and oil wells were drilled on the 80-acre tract of which the church yard and cemetery are a part. Although the Methodist Church was not functioning any more, the money was paid to the trustees, who used it on the cemetery. These trustees have since passed away or moved away and the oil well was abandoned; however, a son of one of the former inhabitants of the community, Homer Johnson, his son Verne and his nephew Gene, are still in charge of the cemetery and the church helps keep it in good condition.

In 1948 at the New Year's Watch Service a revival started. There were 37 conversions and several young married couples started attending the Sunday School. Church services were held part time, and it was their desire to have a church home. On taking a vote, it was found that the majority of those voting preferred to join the General Baptist denomination and so it was done on May 19, 1949, and the church was organized under the name of "Mt. Olive General Baptist Church."

Although there is a new sanctuary near completion of which the members are proud, still the little log church is very dear to the hearts of all in the community. They intend to keep it in good repair and to use it as a chapel of prayer and for meetings of the church. We intend to replace the logs as necessary and to take care of and keep the little log church as long as circumstances will permit. This is the only log church building still standing in Jefferson County.

MOSS FAMILY -- PIONEERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Virginia State Library, Richmond Virginia, states that the Revolutionary Records show there were thirty-seven men named Moss on the rolls of the Archives of the Virginia State Library who served in the Revolutionary War. At Alexandria, Virginia, at the Old Christ Church where George Washington used to worship is a tablet "In memory of Lieutenants William Moss (and three others) who were the military escort at the funeral of General George Washington."

Ransom Moss was born in Louisa County, Virginia, in 1798. He moved to Gallatin, Tennessee, with his two brothers, Cato and Gessom Moss, and one sister, a Mrs. Amvent. The brothers and the sister stayed in Tennessee. While there, Ransom married Miss Susan Charlotte Clark.

Ransom Moss and his young wife, whom he called Charolette, were among the first to settle in Jefferson County, Illinois. They built their cabin three-fourths of a mile due east of what is now Old Shiloh Cemetery in the spring of 1818 in what was then an unknown forest. The only other people for miles were Zadok Casey and wife, who had settled a mile southwest of them in the fall of 1817. Zadok's

brother Issac and son William had settled in what is now Mt. Vernon on the spring of 1817.

Two children were born in Jefferson County to Ransom and Charolette Moss, Lucillius C. and Susan Moss. Charolette died in the cabin in April, 1820, and was laid to rest on April 14, 1820, in Old Shiloh Cemetery, being the first person buried in that cemetery; in fact, hers was the first Christian burial in Jefferson County. Her death was the occasion for the location and laying out of that burial place. Ransom took the two children back to Tennessee after the funeral on horseback to his relatives to keep, they being very young and requiring attention he could not bestow.

Ransom Moss, now a widower, courted and later married Anna Johnson, a daughter of Lewis Johnson, pioneers in Shiloh Township who moved there in 1819. The ceremony was performed by Uncle Billy Maxey, a justice of the peace, on July 6, 1821. They are said to have been the first couple married in Jefferson County. Anna Johnson Moss had been born in the state of Virginia on May 6, 1798, so she was one day older than her husband.

Ransom and Anna settled in his old log cabin for one year and then he bought eighty acres one-half mile south of Zadok Casey and built his second log cabin. Here he raised his family and lived until on August 1, 1835 he passed away and was buried at Old Shiloh Cemetery beside his first wife. He was only thirty-seven at the time of his death.

To Ransom and Moss were born seven children: Thomas L. (who married Sarah Brock. They were the parents of W. D. Moss and grandparents of Ed B. Moss.); James F. (who married a Brock and moved to Jersey County); William Harvey (who died in the Mexican War); Captain John Riley Moss (who married Parmelia C. Allen and who was the father of Norman Moss, attorney); Elizabeth (who married Harmon Hinman first and whose son was Bob Hinman; she later married Rev. John Ellis); Amanda (who married John B. Piercy and who was the mother of Norman Piercy, attorney); and Nancy, (who married James C. Maxey and who was the mother of Dr. Maxey).

Grandmother Anna Moss lived to be 92 years of age, died in October, 1890, and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Mt. Vernon.

-- By Ed B. Moss

THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

In November, 1921, a Home Mission Evangelistic Party came to Mt. Vernon, Illinois, from the Chicago Central District and held a meeting in the Jefferson County court house. The group consisted of Rev. Charles Brown, District Superintendent, Rev. Edna Wells Hoke, evangelist, accompanied by J. O. Hoke and the Aeolin Quartet. On January 8, 1922, a number of people organized the Church of the Nazarene, with Rev. Charles Brown presiding.

The eighteen charter members were as follows: T. L. Boswell, Lois Boswell, A. N. McKnew, Albert Williams, Iva Williams, Leta Williams, Hazel Williams, Nancy Adams, Lizzie Soloman, Effie Soloman, Opal Soloman, Clarence Hester, Ollie Hester, C. A. Deulaney, Ethel Deulaney, Ray Sinks, John Crocker, Lola Golden. The meeting continued in the court house and several Sunday services were conducted. Before the membership charter was closed Eva Adams and Leona Williams joined, making a total membership of twenty.

The first church board was also elected on January 8, 1922, with Rev. Brown presiding. Those elected to serve were: Secretary, Albert Williams; Treasurer, Nancy Adams, Sunday School Superintendent, Albert Williams; Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, C. A. Deulaney; Trustees: A. N. McKnew, T. L. Boswell, C. A. Deulaney, Clarence Hester, Albert Williams; Stewards: Nancy Adams, Lizzie Soloman, Ollie Hester; Membership Committee: Ollie Hester, Lizzie Soloman, John Crocker.

Soon a church building was rented from the Universalist people at 11th and Jordan Streets, and Sunday School and worship services began. Rev. Albert Johnson was called to be the first pastor.

After about six months the Universalists asked for their building and thus the Nazarenes were without a place to worship. Meetings were then held in various homes for a time. Rev. E. O. Chalfant, District Superintendent, attended several services in the homes and realized the urgent need of a permanent church building for the congregation; therefore, it was decided to build a tabernacle.

A ten-year lease was obtained on a lot located at 10th and Perkins from Elmer Hale, and a tabernacle was erected. Many friends and relatives of the church members donated labor, and by winter the

building was ready for use. On January 22, 1923, a note was signed at the Jefferson State Bank for $476.58 to meet the lumber bill. By May, 1924, the note was paid in full. A dedication service was held soon afterward with Rev. Chalfant in charge.

Around the year 1926 a lot was purchased at 11th and Perkins for $150.00 cash. The tabernacle was moved to this location and remained until 1935 when it was torn down and the present church built, under the pastorate of Rev. E. C. Hester. The new church at this location was made possible through much sacrifice of the members and friends.

A home located at 1105 Perkins became the first parsonage, but it later was sold and the present parsonage was purchased at 817 South 18th Street.

The first Missionary Society was organized in October, 1928, and Julia Stanley was appointed President by Rev. Chalfant.

The following ministers have served as pastors, supply pastors and local preachers of this church: Albert Johnson, Ralph Rice, Albert Williams, H. Leslie Freels, Della M. Smith, Johnnie Dance, Elmer Nelson, Clarence Hester, Thomas Snider, C. E. Pendry, David Milby, J. P. Foster, Paul W. Lee, W. E. Allison.

The following have gone out to preach the gospel from the church: James Campbell, Earle P. Campbell, Albert Williams, Lester Oathout, Carl V. Williams, Roy Shifley, Walter Easley, Melvin W. Davis, G. H. Shelton, Ralph Taylor, John Dowdell, Gertrude Guill, Williams Campbell, Clarence Hester, Frank Roney, Raymond Hogue, Lennie Staley.

During the years many improvements have been made on the church properties. In 1961 an annex building and lot was purchased at 11th and Herbert for a recreational center and parking space.

The approximate present membership of this church is 110.

NEW HOPE (WEBB) MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The exact date this church was organized is not known. It is on record of being host to the annual Baptist Association in the year 1858. It is presumed the church existed for quite some time previous to this date.

The first minutes on record are of 1862. New Hope had no pastor at that time. Messengers to the Association were John Waller and William Spencer. The church membership at this time was sixty-one. The associational records had burned previous to this date.

The church's first building was of log structure located in the northeast corner, described at that time as the Crossroads, now the intersection of the Boyd and Richview Roads, six miles northwest of Mt. Vernon. In 1872, this land was deeded to the church, to remain as such unless it ceased to be a place of worship: then said land to revert to the former owners, Wm. C. Webb and his wife, Mary M. Webb. The trustees of the church were Issac Hill, Wm. P. Fiser, and John W. Watkins.

In 1879 the church voted to build a new church house. They voted to build a frame building of wood, near to the log church. The committee appointed consisted of Joseph T. Payne, J. R. Driver, H. J. Holtsclaw, John W. Watkins, and Williamson C. Webb. The carpenter was John Willis, and his work was so good that the building is still in fine condition.

A vote was taken to move the church one and a half miles northeast, near the switch at Webb Station. (At this time Webb was a thriving village, with business places, a railroad and station. The Jacksonville Railroad ran from the Louisville and Nashville Railroad at Drivers, north and westerly through Webb and Boyd to Jacksonville. The "Jack" railroad was torn up, starting early on a Sunday morning in 1902.) In 1889, Williamson C. Webb (his wife, Mary M., was deceased) deeded land in the town of Webb to be the property of the church forever. The building was moved at that time to its present location.

Charter members of the church are not known, but early names include: Williams, Hill, Frost, Reynolds, Henson, Spencer, Modglin, Roberts, Gardner, Driver, Bryant, Fuller, Webb, Marshall, Greer, McMillion, Watkins, Fiser, Ranes, Champ, Casey, Chamness, Payne, McGuire, Hodges, Black, Stanley, Weatherford, Holtslaw, Piper, England, Ferguson, Wiles, Mellott, Dodson, Talbott, Stover, King, Warren, Bough, Riley, Moore, and Procise.

Pastors from 1866 include: Thomas J. Burton (1866-1872), B. D. Esmon (1872-1877), Joseph T. Payne (the first minister on record

to have been ordained in the church in 1878. He was called as pastor the same year at a salary of $60 a year, later raised to $100 per year. He served as pastor also in 1881, 1883-1884, and 1904-1908.), J. H. Murray (1882), W. W. Hay (1885), Cal Richardson (1886 and 1891-1899), Enoch Beal (1900), Elder Prints (1901), Sirus Butler (1902-1903), Ambrose Harshburger (1909-1910), Elder Hall (1911), Frank L. Karn (1912, 1915-1916 and 1938-1940), J. B. Hall (1913), Paris D. Tittle (1917), J. L. Jordan (1918), C. H. Calvin (1919), D. L. Mooney (1920-1921), Raymond Walker (1922), N. J. Anderson (1923-1924), R. H. Page (1925), J. D. Burton (1927-1928), Bird Green (1930-1931), Clarence Greer (1933-1937), E. J. Cravens (1941 - died while pastor), Raymond Pierce (1942), Cyrus N. Maulding (1943), David Goddard (1944), L. A. Adams (1945-1949, 1954), Paul Callias (1950), Melvin Chambliss (1951), Byford King (1952), Gene Auxier (1953), Melvin N. Larson (1955-1956), Virgil Barr (1957), Joe Sledge (1958), Douglas Cox (1959-1960), Sam McCoy (supplied after resignation of Douglas Cox), Dale Brookman (1961-1962).

Electricity came to the church with the coming of Rural Electrification in 1938. A new roof was placed on the church and the building painted in 1942. A hardwood floor was laid in 1943. Also in the 40's an all-purpose road was built to the church. In 1950 concrete steps, walks, insulation and a new ceiling were added.

In 1954 under the leadership of the pastor, L. A. Adams, the church voted to build an educational building of eight rooms. At this time an oil furnace was installed, replacing the old coal stove which sat in the middle of the room. This project was completed the same year, debt free.

In 1959 new pews and pulpit furniture replaced the original furniture. In 1961 under the leadership of the pastor, Dale Brookman, the church voted to build a new entrance to the church. A vestibule, nursery and classroom were added, heated by electricity.

The church has a resident membership of 105, is a member of the Salem South Baptist Association; it sponsors Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood, Women's Missionary Society, Vacation Bible School, and is represented at the Baptist Assembly at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. It also contributes to cooperative missions and the Baptist Children's Home at Carmi, Illinois.

This church first had preaching only one Sunday each month. The pastor would come on the train and spend the weekend. Later, when the railroad left Webb, he would be met at Drivers, at the L & N Station. In the late 1940's, one-half preaching time was voted in. In 1953, a full-time pastor was called, and the church continues this practice.

Early members of this church helped organize the Woodlawn Baptist Church in 1871, and later Drivers Baptist Church in 1893. Many members moved their membership to these churches nearer their homes.

New Hope is proud to have among its active membership many of the descendants of the early church.

In 1936, old schoolmates of the first Webb School, which stood in the woods north of the church on the Rome-Shiloh Township Road, organized a homecoming at this church, to be held the first Sunday in September. The first committee in charge was Frank Walker, Eldridge Webb and Walter Greer. The Twenty-sixth Annual Homecoming, under the sponsorship of the church, was on the first Sunday in September, 1962.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

(Taken from "The Car Shop Whistle" January 8, 1959, Mt. Vernon Register-News article based on a talk by Orian Metcalf before the Rotary and Lions clubs that week.)

The passing of the steam whistle from the Mt. Vernon scene makes a great difference in the noise of any day -- especially New Year's Eve. Forty years ago, New Year's Eve was bedlam. Parents used to wake up the children so they could hear the old year out and the new year in.

The car shop whistle would blow -- it had a wildcat siren and also a deep bass. The knitting factory and the shoe factory whistles would add their shrills. There were firecrackers, shotguns, cowbells and church bells. Next to the car shop whistle, the loudest sounds were made by whistles of the locomotives. In those days the L & N kept two switch engines in Mt. Vernon, and the C & E I and the

Southern had switch engines. The W C & W passengers and freight engines were both here overnight. The car shops had two switch engines and a steam traveling crane. The L & N and Southern each had passenger and freight accommodation trains terminating here. That's eleven big steam whistles to add to New Year's din.

Nowadays the steam engine is in the museum. The diesels pull such big freight strings that they also have time to do all the switching.

In 1918 the smokestacks from the many locomotives and the car shops, knitting factory and shoe factory belched black smoke day and night. Citizens Gas and Electric Company burned coal to produce electricity with its dynamos, and for the town's gas mains. It had boilers which sent hot water through pipes in tunnels through the business district to heat stores and residences of many on Jordan, Tenth and North Streets, and downtown churches. They said, "Don't complain about the smoke...it means prosperity."

In 1918 Mt. Vernon had only 9,800 population, just about half of those who live here today.

The car shop whistle was used as a fire alarm. The wildcat siren would shriek several times and then give a series of short blasts to tell what part of town the fire was in. Two blasts meant the fire was in ward two, seven meant ward seven, and so on. At various places in town there were fire alarm boxes. In case of fire one opened the door and pulled down a lever. That started an electrical circuit that rang a bell in the old fire barn on 11th Street, across from the Illinois Hotel. The fire driver -- who was the only full-time fire department employee -- would phone the car shops, or his wife would, to tell them the ward to blow. Then he would back the big team of fire horses under the rack of harness hanging down from the ceiling. In about two minutes he would have them hitched and would drive out with bell clanging. By that time the car shop whistle would be blowing, calling the volunteer firemen (paid by the fire). They would come running from stores and barber shops to the northwest corner of the square, where the fire wagon would be stopped with bell clanging and horses prancing. When two or three had jumped on, the wagon would start out at what seemed then to be breakneck speed. Meanwhile, the person who pulled

the fire alarm box lever was supposed to wait there and tell the firemen where the blaze was. Of course by 1918 most fires were reported by telephone.....but the car shop whistle blew the words just the same.

There were times when some of the volunteer firemen got into the poker game with th e fire chief in the basement of his barber shop on the north side of the square and the fire wagon would be slow in starting. It was really something to see those fellows come running. They would swing onto the running board of the fire wagon and put on their bunker suits as they hung on with one hand. If the fire wagon turned north or south they had a hard time hanging on as they pounded over the rough cobble stones with which 9th, 10th and 12th streets were paved.

Once at the fire, they fought it much as today, except they had no pumps and used only the pressure of the water main. They got wet and cold and frozen, just like the boys do today. I have been told of one whose clothing froze as he fought the fire which destroyed the cupola on the old high school. H e got pneumonia and died.

There were bells in all the schools and churches. We knew them by sound. Nowadays there are no school bells -- only gongs. There are still church bells, including one which Zadok Casey gave the First Methodist Church over a hundred years ago.

The Wabash, Chester and Western whistles had their own character. These engines must have come from the Civil War. They had bellmouth smokestacks and high drive wheels. The W C & W was supposed to run from the Wabash River at Terre Haute to Chester and on to the West, hence its name. It was always in financial straits. It was taken over by the Missouri Pacific, and joined the C & E I and Southern in converting to diesels. After the L & N turned to oil, there hasn't been a steam locomotive whistle through here.

It was before I was born that there was a whistle at the ax handle factory. It employed several men, but didn't do too well financially. They tell me that sometimes they had to pay off in ax handles. For one ax handle you could swap for two pounds of coffee. Or, take one pound of coffee and get a hatchet handle or two tack handles in change.

My father, John W. Metcalf, who is 85 and can hardly walk because of a broken hip, is complaining because somebody has borrowed his

genuine ax-handle-factory-ax and failed to return it. He told me that he went to the ax handle factory to select the ax handle and then took it downtown to the Herdman Blacksmith Shop -- where First National Bank now has its drive-in building -- and had Herdman put on the ax blade and wedge it. Dad used this ax for almost sixty years.

He said they must have given him a left-handed handle, because he could hardly ever hit within six inches of where he was aiming; but it was practically an antique, and he liked it. He says he is willing to accept the ax back from whoever borrowed it -- with no questions axed.

NEW HOME (LOWERY) CHURCH

The first General Baptist group to be organized into a church in Jefferson County, Illinois, was organized by Elder E. Sprouse, assisted by deacons J. W. McConnaughay and Curl McConnaughay at Lowery School House in Farrington Township on the 28th day of February, 1885. Following is from the minutes of the organizational service:

State of Illinois
Jefferson County

The following named persons met together, and after examination of the Christians present as to character and spiritual experience, all being found worthy was organized into a church of General Baptists, having adopted the articles of faith and rules of decorum of the General Baptists of the Union Grove Association of Southern Illinois to be known as New Home Church.

Organization was under the direction of Elder E. Sprouse and deacons J. W. McConnaughay and Curl McConnaughay, who accepted the following as charter members: W. M. McConnaughay, Nancy McConnaughay, James Lowery, Mary Lowery, John Grove, Lydia E. Grove, Featherson Doty, John McConnaughay, Nancy A. McConnaughay, George McConnaughay, Curl McConnaughay, Douglas McConnaughay, Mary Cornstubble, Mary E. Donoho, Martha Scott, Susan Smith, Patsy Wood, Florence Doty, and Love Boudinot. Elder E. Sprouse was chosen for first pastor.

The original group first worshipped in the Lowery School house, until a new church building was constructed on a plot of ground situated in Section 12, Farrington Township, Jefferson County, Illinois. Some of the group of workers said, "We have a new church to worship in

now and suggest we name it New Home." The others agreed on that name. However, to this day it is still called Lowery as well as New Home.

The group prospered in the new building under the leadership of succeeding ministers until the year of 1916, when the original building was remodeled and enlarged to accommodate the enlarged congregation. This building was razed in the year of 1949-1950 and a new concrete building was erected.

Due to the destruction of the original church record book by fire, the records except the minutes of organization cannot be obtained until the minutes of September 9, 1916. Following are some of the pastors, some taken from memory of older members; Elder E. Sprouse, D. H. Young, Tom Farmer, George McConnaughay, Dave Wendell, Mason Richardson, W. J. Whitsett, R. C. Butcher, W. W. Russell, B. C. Byars, Elmer Kelcher, Granville McConnaughay, Delbert Goff, Tom Dillinger, Ben Bradshaw, Austin Donoho, Glen Musgraves, Glen Etheridge, Ray Johnson, J. L. McDonald, Merritt Strickland, Jesse Miller, and Rolla Eller (the present pastor).

--By Mrs. Voris Coil
Keenes, Ill.

OZARK AIR LINES

Ozark Air Lines, Inc., was incorporated under the lasw of the State of Missouri on September 1, 1943, to engage in air transportation of a local service nature. Shortly thereafter it applied to the Civil Aeronautics Board for authority to engage in scheduled air transportation of persons, property and mail in interstate commerce. After extensive hearings and litigation extending over seven years, Ozark was certificated as a local service airline on July 28, 1950.

Ozark was originally granted a temporary three-year certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity which was renewed for five years. An Act of Congress in 1955, however, provided for granting Ozark and twelve other local service airlines permanent certificates.

Schedules operations were started on September 26, 1950, with forty employees and four Douglas DC-3 planes. Ozark's first route of 285 miles was between St. Louis and Chicago with stops at Springfield, Decatur and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. Ozark now serves cities in nine states with a route system of over 5300 miles.

This airline's 1961 summer schedule provided for 25,100 miles of operations per day. Ozark has a fleet of twenty-three Douglass DC-3's and three Fairchild forty-passenger jet-prop aircraft.

Ozark's rapid growth is reflected in its record of passengers flown each year since the start of operations. In three months of operation in 1950, it flew 4,004 passengers; in 1951, 49,507 were flown; in 1952, 84,463; in 1953, 125,220; 1954, 156,391; 1955, 247,031; 1956, 318,994; 1957, 399,337; 1958, 431,268; 1959, 547,883; 1960, 572,348. Ozark flew its three-millionth passenger on March 10, 1961, and has no accident on its record in flying over 53 million miles.

Of the thirteen local service airlines in the United States, Ozark ranks among the leaders in size of its operations and in passenger, mail and cargo traffic. It is the first and only local service airline operating modern jet-prop aircraft in the Midwest.

The airline's general offices and principal maintenance base are located at Lambert Field, St. Louis. Another maintenance base has been established at Rockford, Illinois, and a second flight crew base at Chicago.

The airline is headed by Joseph H. FitzGerald, president and board member, who has a background of fifteen years in commercial aviation. Other members of the board of directors are Floyd W. Jones, chairman, of Springfield, Missouri, one of the original incorporators of Ozark, who has been associated with the transportation business for the past thirty-five years; Arthur G. Heyne, secretary, of St. Louis, also one of the original incorporators, a practicing attorney and corporation counselor; Elbert H. Green, treasurer, Springfield, Missouri, president of Richland Manufacturing Company and also associated with investment and finance companies; Jean Paul Bradshaw, senior vice president and general counsel, Springfield, Missouri, a partner in a large law firm and director of several corporations; Rev. Chris A. Bachman, a minister in East Prairie, Missouri; Glenn O. Shaver of St. Louis, a captain with Ozark; and Earl W. Weaver, vice president of the Bank of St. Louis.

The airline organization has grown to over eleven hundred employees, the majority of whom are technicians holding special aeronautical licenses.

The name "Ozark" is of French derivation. The early French-Canadian trappers referred to the mountainous area in Missouri as the "boiz auz arc," meaning "wood for bows" region where the Osage Indians found an excellent wood for making their bows. Later the English joined the words, substituted letters and the name was shortened to "Ozark." The Ozark geographic region includes most of Missouri, Arkansas, and extends into Oklahoma and Illinois, one of the most beautiful vacation areas in the country.

Ozark Air Lines' corporate insignia is a stylized version of the "three swallows," the ancient symbol of good luck, safe travel and scheduled flight. The swallows are claimed to be the best loved birds in the world. They are noted for their scheduled flights -- arriving at the Mission of San Juan Capistrano on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, with clocklike regularity and departing on St. Juan's Day, October 23, each year since the Mission was built in 1806.

Inauguration of service by Ozark Air Lines in Mt. Vernon was dated February 2, 1962, and Mt. Vernon has been very happy with the service of this fine air line. There has been an increase in the record of passengers flown each month since the service was inaugurated.

The first Ozark plane for scheduled flight touched the Mt. Vernon runway at 6:59 a.m. and departed at 7:14 a.m. on February 2, 1962. The first flight, going north, had 3,292 pieces of mail weighing 42 pounds. The second flight that day carried 801 pieces of mail to St. Louis. The third flight, again going north, had 402 pieces of mail. The fourth flight of the day carried 57 pieces of mail to St. Louis, making a total of 4,552 pieces of mail carried by Ozark on the inaugural day in Mt. Vernon.

OLDTIMER'S SHOPPING LIST

(Taken from an article in the Mt. Vernon Register-News by Addison Hapeman.)

The grocery list of seventy-five or more years ago did not much resemble the carry-out of today's supermarket. The eating habits of the people were still simple; food was the fuel that kept the human engine working until the next meal. There was no need for a large store full of fancy packages. The little corner grocery or the crossroads store could supply the simple needs.

One item that man has never learned to do without is salt. The coastal dwellers, who lived mainly on sea foods, easily got their quota of salt, but the people of the midlands as in Jefferson County must buy all the salt they used. Salt, then, was always on the oldtimer's shopping list. This was a coarse yellowish-white product, shipped in wooden barrels, usually from the United States Salines, or the salt springs near what is now Equality, Illinois. Not having the modern paper bag, the grocers tore off a square of brown wrapping paper, poured a pile of salt in the center of it, and then folded the paper into a bundle that could be tied with a string.

Probably number two on the list of necessities was soda. This was used in "sody" biscuits and the ever present corn bread, and while corn meal could be manufactured into an edible cake without using baking soda, it was rather unpleasant to get along without it.

Coffee, even in that earlier day, had its strangle hold on the American public. The coffee beans arrived at the store in large jute bags, and the berries were green (unroasted). After the consumer

got home with his coffee beans they must be roasted and ground. This roasting was done in a spider in the fireplace, and later, when cook-stoves became more common, in a large flat pan in the oven. The process was a very aromatic one (there was never any doubt as to what was going on), and great care must be taken to keep the coffee beans from burning.

The roasted beans were stored in a crockery jar until they were to be used. While the coffee could be roasted ahead of time, it must be ground just before use, and the whir of the coffee grinder was an every-morning sound in the house.

There was only one restriction in the use of coffee. Due to the fact that it was habit forming and (what was even worse) it cost money, it was strictly for grown-ups, and until he did a man's work the child got no coffee. This taboo, naturally, fired the youngins to an overwhelming desire for coffee, even though they could hardly stand the taste of it.

Perhaps it was the memories of fire-borrowing that sold the oldtimers so wholeheartedly on matches; at least, these early fire kindlers were one of the necessary items. They were known as "three-day matches," the idea being that after you struck one of them it spit out sulphur fumes for three days before it finally burst into flame.

Sugar was a border line case in the matter of the oldtime grocery list. There was still plenty of "long sweetening" (sorghum molasses, maple syrup, and honey) and "short sweetening" or maple sugar. Therefore it was rather a sign of the changing times when the "old woman" sent for sugar (and actually got it.) The sugar of that day came, of course, in wooden barrels. It was coarse and light brown, and it had a tendency to run together and get sticky in damp weather. It was a far cry from the granulated and 10x confectioners sugar of today.

Salt, soda, coffee, matches and sugar completed the list of foods that the average farm family had to buy in that earlier time. Of course they raised all of their own meat, and so their lard. The cows furnished milk, butter, and a variety of cheeses. All of their potatoes (Irish and sweet) and other vegetables and fruits that they used were produced on the farm.

In spite of living in what looks like the midst of plenty, there was always the yearning for something different. This desire was satisfied, in part, when the man of the house on his weekly trip to the store had a little extra money. He then brought home some dried prunes or raisins as a treat for the "old woman and youngins."

It was the man of the house who took whatever produce was available to the store and did the "trading." Woman's place was in the home, and so she was not fitted to compete in the world of commerce. The woman was taken to town two or three times a year so she could buy "woman things" such as sewing cotton (or thread), pins, needles, and calico.

After the first oil well was drilled in Oil City, kerosene lamps began to replace the tallow candles. It was then that "coal oil" became a must, and the gallon can with a potato stuck on the spout moved into the American scene.

It would seem that hauling home a gallon of coal oil should be about as safe as anything one could do. But the black demons that plague the race of man are ever alert, and one Saturday one particular farmer let his guard down for a little, so they struck at him.

This man's mistake lay in getting his coal oil in a glass jug instead of the potato stoppered tin can. It was a cold, clear day, and he had the bottom of his wagon covered with straw to help keep his feet warm. He got home from the store just at noon; and after unhitching his team, he carried the box of groceries into the house, intending to get the coal oil after dinner. When he looked out after eating, the whole front end of his wagon was a mass of fire. Before he got it extinguished, it had burned half the box, the spring seat, one end off the coupling pole, the front hounds and ruined the front axle.

As nearly as he could reconstruct the events, this is what must have happened: the sun, shining through the gallon of kerosene, had focused a burning ray on the straw and ignited it. The heat of this straw fire burst the jug, and the kerosene had created an inferno. Whether or not his premise was premise, his wagon was ruined and he had to buy another one. He also got a new tin can and hunted up a potato to fit.

LOCAL HISTORY OF OPDYKE

(EDITORIAL NOTE: This history was written by Evelyn Burnett in 1919-1920. It is included because the early history is authentic. It will be noted by friends of Opdyke that many changes have occurred in the over-forty years since it was written.)

In 1850 the land where our home town of Opdyke is now situated was a vast prairie. This land was purchased by J. A. Jones in 1857, and it was decided to build a small trading center.

In 1870, J. C. Jones, J. K. Jones, G. D. Jones and D. T. Phillips laid the plat for the little town. That same year a gang of surveyors came through surveying for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. Among the surveyors was a German by the name of George Opdyke, whose home was in New York. He told the people that he would donate the money to build the (L&N) railroad through their little town if they would name the town for him....so the little town was named Opdyke.

The first depot was then built, in 1870; but later it was destroyed by fire and a new building replaced it, which is still standing at the present date. (EDITORIAL NOTE: 1920)

The first grocerymen and merchants of Opdyke were: S. K. Allen, George Yost and John Estes. The store building which is now occupied by A. H. Garrison was erected by S. K. Allen. George Yost erected a store building which stood west of where Dr. Jack's office is now located. The building was later occupied by Harry Plummer and was destroyed by fire. John Estes erected the store building which is now owned by George A. Golden.

The Opdyke Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1870, George Opdyke donating the first bell for the church.

In 1870 a flour mill was erected by John Keller and James K. Jones. This mill is now owned and operated by J. T. Mobley.

The first residences of Opdyke were built by Dr. Montgomery and Dr. Stonemetz. The buildings are still standing.

The Masonic Lodge was organized in 1860 at what is now known as the Ham residence, which is located about two miles southwest of Opdyke. Later a hall was built over the school house at Lynchburg and the Masonic Lodge was held there; but in later years it was moved to Opdyke.

In 1876 the Oddfellows Lodge was moved from Lynchburg to the hall over the drug store.

A harness shop was erected in 1872 by A. C. Jones.

The first post office was located in the ware-room of A. C. Jones, the first postmaster being S. W. Alexander.

The first school house was a frame structure, being located where the graded school is at present. A brick building was later built in its place.

The first medical doctors were Dr. Montgomery and Dr. Stonemetz.

A telegraphy school was organized by J. C. Tucker. There was an enrollment of about forty students, and the school was located in the hall over Garrison's store.

A boarding house which was known as the "Travelers Rest" was kept by Ezekial Knapp. The building is now occupied by Rose Stanley.

An apple evaporator was built west of the Montgomery residence, the proprietor being J. N. Rentchler. The building is still standing, but Mr. Rentchler resides in Belleville.

The first sawmill was located northeast of Dr. Montgomery's residence, Tobias Boman being proprietor. This was a success for many years, but no signs are left of it at the present date.

In 1881 a new flour mill was built which cost about $20,000; but this was later destroyed by fire.

The Opdyke Baptist Church was erected in 1885. George Opdyke had promised to furnish the first bell for this church; but when the committee wrote to him, they were promptly answered by his son stating that his father had died and he did not feel responsible for his father's promises. The church is located in the east part of town (1920).

There has been a stock buying market at Opdyke for many years, conducted by the Estes brothers. The buying now is in the hands of Mr. Estes' son-in-law, R. S. Rhodes.

The Opdyke Bank organized and opened for business January 11, 1909, with J. N. Kern, T. B. Williamson, G. G. Kern and John Shetler as officers. It was then reorganized September 10, 1910, capital being $10,000, with G. S. Brown as president, B. F. Conklin vice president and J. N. Kern cashier.

A second bank was organized later; it was known as "Security Bank," with W. P. Estes serving as cashier. (EDITORIAL NOTE: This is the bank which later moved to Mt. Vernon.)

The town at present has two hardware stores, four grocery and dry goods stores, one barber shop, one depot, two banks, two churches, one post office, one flour mill, one grade school building with two rooms, and one community high school with 27 intelligent students under the direction of Miss Lettie E. Bristol.

By Evelyn Burnett

PARK AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Park Avenue Church building was completed and dedicated on November 24, 1907.

However, prior to that time a Rev. Richard Thomas, a Baptist minister, held a tent meeting at Tolle Road and Park Avenue. After this tent meeting Mrs. Martha Neff, a widow, opened her little grocery store (where the Kenneth Sandusky store is today), and she and her four sons and a few neighbors held Sunday School each Sunday. The next year a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Surface, held a meeting in the orchard (located where Helen Warren now lives). All of the land east of the Tolle Road was in apple orchard.

The congregation soon outgrew the little store, and it moved to a larger store building, empty at that time and owned by R. H. Stout, at the corner of Seventh and Park Avenue. Soon others were attracted to the little mission and the attendance grew. People from the First Baptist Church began attending and brought song books and literature for the Sunday School and taught classes.

Soon it became evident that a church should be organized and a date was set for a decision as to what denomination should organize the church, as there were Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians attending the mission. The Baptists won the majority vote.

Park Avenue Baptist Church was organized with seventeen charter members who were: William Whitsell, Nellie Whitsell Johnson, Ella Perkins, Joe Grissom and wife, Joe and Nora Maulding, Mr. and Mrs. George Parmlee, Pappy Myers, Frank Burnett, Mrs. Carrol, Harvey Neff, Earl Neff, Martha Neff, Daisy Rote and Freddie Dale. Bro. A. A. Todd, pastor of the First Baptist Church, supplied the pulpit and organized the church. Mr. G. W. Reid was the first Sunday School superintendent. The congregation called the Rev. L. M. Darnell as its first pastor.

Park Avenue Baptist Church was the first full-time church in Salem South Association, and the first W. M. U. was organized in 1918.

The first church building was soon outgrown, and in 1922 a basement was put under the building. In 1932 the auditorium was enlarged.

The winter of 1931-1932 was a great one for the church. A nineteen-weeks revival, led by the pastor Rev. Cyrus Maulding, during which there were 380 professions and during which 220 persons were baptized, was probably the turning point which destined the church to grow from a small congregation to one of the city's larger churches today.

The congregation again outgrew its building and in 1948 ground was broken for a new $300,000 church, including a new educational building and sanctuary.

The educational building was not completed until 1952, and the congregation continued to meet in the old building during its building. The educational building was to the north of the old building and was completed sufficiently in 1952 that it could be used.

For five years the worship services of the church were held on the top floor of the educational building with the various classes meeting as best they could in this same building. The original building and the church went ahead with the building of the new sanctuary, which was joined the educational building and was built over the site of the original building.

The congregation moved into and dedicated the beautiful new sanctuary on September 15, 1957.

The parsonage stands on the lot to the west of the church, and the church property extends from Ninth Street to Tenth Street on the north side of Park Avenue.

The membership of the church at the end of 1961 stood at 749.

The ministers who have served this church include: A. A. Todd, L. M. Darnell, A. L. Smith, J. D. Mooney, J. D. Hooker, Ola Allen, J. R. McDuffy, L. L. Tucker, J. R. Kelly, J. R. McDuffy (second time), Bird Green, Cyrus W. Maulding, H. A. Todd, Dr. W. K. Sisk, Fred Propst, Ross Partridge, Leonard Whitlock, Allen Stephens, and Everett Lemay.

Several ministers and missionaries have gone out from this church to ministries in many parts of the world. Among them are: Orville Harlow, Gilbert Waud, Ross Partridge, Raymond Pierce, Arthur

[illegible]

Smith, Paul Bellamy, Harold Clark, Thomas L. Cook, Bob Atchison, W. T. Atto, and Roy Johnson.

Among missions which have been sponsored by the church are: Summerville Baptist Church, Old Union Baptist Church and Bethel Baptist Church.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(EDITORIAL NOTE: Early history of this church was prepared by Miss Jessie Hill on the occasion of the observance of the one hundredth anniversary of organized Presbyterianism in Mt. Vernon on October 19, 1941. Subsequent information has been supplied by various members of the congregation, most of it coming from the booklet published for the congregation and its guests for the centennial worship service on February 21, 1954.)

Presbyterianism in Southern Illinois owes much to a few tireless missionaries. Two of them should be mentioned in connection with the history of this church.

The first, B. F. Spillman, is described by one of his contemporaries as "an itinerant missionary in middle and southern Illinois for seventeen years before he settled as pastor of the church at Shawneetown in April, 1842." He was a great uncle of Mr. E. E. Willis, Senior Ruling Elder and Treasurer of First Presbyterian Church for many years. It was B. F. Spillman, "rugged and stalwart Kentuckian, blunt and familiar in his manners," who in 1841 first organized a Presbyterian church in Mt. Vernon. At that time Presbyterians in the United States were divided into two groups known respectively as "Old School" and "New School," the division having taken place with reference to disagreement and agreement with a "Plan of Union" with the Congregational Churches of America. The church organized here was of the "Old School" group, and was under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Kaskaskia. It was never a flourishing congregation. It had ten members and two ruling elders at the time it was organized. Among those who served it as ministers were B. F. Spillman, Alexander Ewing, and Blackburn Leffler. Its most noted member was Judge Walter B. Scates,

a member of the State Supreme Court. After eleven years the congregation was dissolved at its own request, and its members were attached to the Gilead Presbyterian Church which was located northwest of Mt. Vernon not far from the town of Dix. In 1861, since it had only one member, the Gilead Church, too, was dissolved. This brought an end to Old School Presbyterianism in Mt. Vernon.

But within two years another tireless missionary from Kentucky, Robert Stewart, arrived on the scene and organized a "New School" Presbyterian Church. This was in the year 1854, and the church was organized under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Alton. Though divisions and reunions have taken place, the church history has been continuous since 1854. The church is fortunate to have the original minutes of the organization meeting and a part of the "Articles of Faith" signed by the charter members, who were: Rev. Mr. Robert Stewart, William D. Johnston, George Mills, Louisa M. Bogan, Juliana Gray, Hannah Mills, John S. Bogan, Dr. John C. Gray, Warner White, and Sarah A. Tanner. Eliza White joined the group by letter.

At the organization meeting on February 21, 1854, ruling elders elected were Warner White, George Mills and John L. Bogan; George Mills, John C. Gray and John L. Bogan were elected trustees. The Meeting was held in the home of Dr. John C. Gray, who was a brother-in-law of the Dr. Green who practiced medicine in Mt. Vernon for many years and whose family home stood on Broadway at Seventh Street where the Armory now stands. Mrs. Letcher (Katherine) Irons and Mrs. Lois Goodale were grand-daughters of John S. and Louisa Bogan.

For the three years following the organization of the church, the congregation held its meetings on the first floor of the Odd Fellows' Hall, which stood on Main Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets. Then, in 1854, a brick edifice was erected on Lots 7 and 8 in Casey's Addition across from the Appellate Court building. William H. Perrin, in his "History of Jefferson County," quoted A. C. Johnson, an authority on early local history and at one time a minister of this church, as saying that the first design was for a one-story house, but some of the members wanted it to be two stories in height and promised that the extra $2000 would be raised to have it so. The

plan was changed, and the money was raised by Mr. Mills, Mr. Bogan and Dr. Gray. The house was finished at a cost of about $4000. To finish paying for the house, the trustees secured a loan of $500 from the Presbyterian Board of Church of Erection. The final payment on this loan was made in 1871. This structure was torn down in 1934.

The list of ministers who served this "New School" Presbyterian church, which we hear referred to as the "Old Church", includes: Samuel R. Wylie (1854), William H. Bird, (1855), Hillery Patrick (1856), Charles Kenmore (1858), Samuel Gibson (1858), R. G. Williams (1869-70), Gideon C. Clark (1871-73), Soloman Cook (1873-74), Adam Clark Johnson (1874-76), M. M. Cooper (1876), George B. McComb (1876-78), J. J. Graham (1878), Eben Muse (1882), E. P. Lewis (1885), W. R. Hosken (1891), Mr. Cooper (1894) and H. B. Douglas (1895-1905).

Adam Clark Johnson, quoted above as an authority on early local history, was the son of a local Methodist minister, was educated as a physician, practiced medicine, was at one time a Methodist minister, later was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. After he had served the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian church as pastor, he remained in Mt. Vernon as a Sunday School missionary.

There was a period of eleven years, 1858 - 1869, when the Presbyterian people had no settled pastor in Mt. Vernon. The Presbytery's missionary, Joseph Gordon, visited the church frequently; occasionally other ministers came. However, Sunday School and prayer meetings were held regularly, and in time the church was again able to have a pastor. William Perrin, in his "History of Jefferson County," states that in 1882 the church had 100 members, paid its pastor $700 per year, and had a Sunday School of 130 members with twelve teachers.

But not long after that a division occurred in the church. On April 26, 1895, a request was presented to the Session signed by forty-three members asking for "letters of dismissal in order to assist in organizing the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Mt. Vernon." In the month which followed, more members asked for letters of dismissal. These requests were granted, and the pastor, Rev. Mr. Cooper, resigned. Cairo Presbytery, now the Presbytery of jurisdiction, met here on May 22, 1895, to investigate the difficulty and appointed Rev. H. B. Douglas to supply the church at least half-time.

The group of fifty-six members who left the New School church met in Home Protection Hall on April 30, 1895, with Rev. H. Clay Yates and Rev. C. W. Yates and organized the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Mt. Vernon. The elders elected were Samuel Gibson, W. H. Damon, and Morris Emmerson. The deacons were James L. Pollock, A. H. Wheeler and Dr. Letcher Irons.

On May 8, 1895, a Sunday School with eleven classes and eighty-three members was organized at the Opera House. On this date a pastoral call was extended to Rev. H. Clay Yates at a salary of $900 per year. For several years services were held in whatever place was available, usually the Opera House. On July 16, 1897, it was decided to build a brick church on North Tenth Street between Main and Harrison Streets. A year later the architect's plan was approved and the building contract was let, the building to cost $6,853.69. Financing the building was quite a problem. The pastor's salary was cut from $900 to $700 a year, and a loan of $1500 was secured from the Presbyterian Board of Church Erection. Most important of all, the pastor, through his friendship with William J. Gibson of Lawrence County, secured a loan from the latter of $3000. Fortunately, the generous Mr. Gibson later decided to make this sum a gift rather than a loan. The new building was completed and dedicated in 1899.

Rev. H. Clay Yates continued to serve the church until 1900, and was succeeded by Rev. George H. Turner, who remained only one year. In January, 1902, the church called the Rev. E. B. Johnson as pastor at such salary as could be raised by subscription. In September, 1903, Mr. Johnson resigned, and was succeeded one month later by Rev. E. B. Surface.

During the period of ten years when two Presbyterian congregations were endeavoring to maintain churches in a town big enough for only one, indications of friendship and cooperation between the two groups are worth noticing. Such occasions were the times when they came together for revival services. "Old School" and "New School" branches of Presbyterianism had now become re-united. Thus the older Presbyterian congregation in Mt. Vernon had become a local church of "The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A." At the turn of the century there was a strong movement toward re-union on a national scale of the

Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This national movement found local expression, and steps in that direction were taken by both churches here. The First Presbyterian Church, the older congregation, had been without a pastor since Rev. Douglas left in August, 1905. The Rev. W. M. Maxton of DuQuoin served as moderator of its business sessions.

On March 26, 1906, the official boards of the two local churches met together to consider the question of reunion. At a later meeting it was agreed to petition their respective Presbyteries for consent to consolidate. This was obtained, and reunion was achieved.

On May 27, 1906, the first meeting of the session of the reunited church was held. The elders were J. F. McKelvey, Samuel Gibson, Letcher Irons, J. H. Grant, W. H. Damon and E. E. Willis. According to the terms of the reunion, the building of the former Cumberland Church was to be used, and the name of the older organization, The First Presbyterian Church, was to be retained. Rev. E. B. Surface remained as pastor of the reunited church. The old church property near the Appellate Court building was sold, and the church acquired a manse, the large frame building which stood for years on the corner of Eleventh and Harrison Streets. The duplex envelope system of church finance was adopted. In the year 1910, when Mr. Surface resigned, the church had 263 communicant members.

Rev. W. V. McAdoo served as pastor from 1910 to 1914. During these years the church building was remodeled, the balcony opened, the pipe organ was purchased and installed, the chancel was moved from the northwest corner to the west center of the sanctuary, and the pews were re-arranged accordingly.

Dr. Marion Hull was the next pastor of the church, and served from 1915 to 1918. In this pastorate the church acquired the lot at the corner of Tenth and Harrison Streets.

Dr. H. M. Thomas succeeded Dr. Hull in 1918 and served until 1925. In this period the church basement was enlarged and finished, the church kitchen built and equipped, the old manse was sold and a new manse at 1019 Harrison Street was built.

Dr. O. W. Pratt came to the church as its pastor in 1925 and remained until 1929. In his pastorate the congregation adopted

the Service Pension Plan. The Board of Deacons was discontinued and the Board of Trustees was increased to nine members with responsibility for the management of the temporal affairs of the church. A Board of Women Visitors was also installed.

Dr. Robert B. Guthrie came to the church in 1929. He proved himself a very able leader in the spiritual life not only of this church but also of the whole community

Rev. Robert F. Freytag became Assistant Minister in June, 1955. Dr. Guthrie retired on January 1, 1957, and Rev. Freytag succeeded him as pastor.

Many times First Presbyterian Church has opened its doors to serve the community. After the memorable tornado of 1888, the church was used by the Red Cross as a base of supplies, and cooking for the sick and homeless was done in the first floor rooms. Miss Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was here at that time. The first floor rooms were also used for a public school at one time. In later years it has often been opened for meetings for civic and fraternal groups. Many of the men and women who labored to keep this church an effective force for good have also left the mark of their sterling character on the civic life of the community. Many of them have worthily filled public office and one of them, Louis L. Emmerson, was entrusted with the governorship of the state.

At a congregational meeting held January 16, 1948, it was voted to sell the church property located on North Tenth Street and to erect a new church building west of Oakwood Cemetery on the Ashley Road.

On September 8, 1949, thirteen months after the construction started, the first worship service was held in the new church building. The main chapel was unfinished and much work remained to be done on other parts of the building. Public worship services were held in the Fellowship Hall until the chapel was ready for use.

The new church building was dedicated November 30, 1949. The dedicatory address was given by the Rev. Clifford E. Barbour, Ph.D., moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The various organizations of the church deserve recognition in the growth of the church. The Sunday School with its organized classes has been a strong factor. The women's organizations, including the Missionary Society, the Presbyterian Woman's Club with its forerunner the Organ Circle, have labored tirelessly for the improvement and the welfare of the church. The Camaraderie Club, the Young People'. Society, and the Boy Scouts have all had a share in building the church life and program. The Westminster Society, the Senior High Fellowship, Presby-teens, and the Junior Choir also deserve mention for their contribution to the growth of the church.

PLEASANT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

= (EDITORIAL NOTE: Most of this history was prepared by Rev. L. R. Seymour in July, 1920, and by Verne S. Melton in October, 1951.)

The history of Pleasant Grove begins with the first white settlers of Jefferson County. Isaac Casey with his family came from Cave-in-Rock in 1816 and settled where Mt. Vernon is now located. The Maxey's came from Tennessee the same year. These families purchased land under the Bit Act for twelve and a half cents an acre. Thomas Casey, the third, and eighteen years old, son of Isaac Casey, married Harriet Maxey on October 5, 1819. Their marriage license is the third on record in Jefferson County, the other two being recorded on the same date. During the winter months the young man selected a place north of Mt. Vernon and built his own home a quarter-mile west of the present brick church. The snow was raked away and a rail pen built with a roof made of weight poles. He moved his household goods in and took possession in his independent way.

On July 9, 1820, a still born child came to the home and was buried on the ground where Pleasant Grove Church now stands. The grave is marked with the following inscription, "In memory of an Infant, first child of Thomas M. and Harriet Casey, which was still born July 9, 1820. The above was the first interment made in this Church yard, the land being donated by its parents to the Methodist Episcopal Church for burial and other purposes forever." There is only one older grave in Jefferson County. A Maxey child ten months old was buried in

Moore's Prairie Township two years and two months prior to this. Pleasant Grove and Old Shiloh, where the first wife of Ransom Moss was buried about this time, are the oldest cemeteries used for burial purposes today. Rhoda Allen's grave made in August of the same year was the beginning of Old Union Cemetery.

Mr. Casey never claimed to be the founder of the church, but was always foremost in church work. Others followed and helped him. Methodism had been organized only thirty-six years previous to this time. Its spread was evident. The donor of this sacred spot was licensed to exhort in 1831 and to preach in 1843, ordained deacon by Bishop Morris and ordained elder by Bishop Janes. He was the father of eleven children. It might be of interest to know that an uncle of his, Zadok Casey, preached the first sermon in Jefferson County in 1817, and every man, woman and child in the county was present. More might be said of the man who gave the property for this church and cemetery.

It is not known just when the first church was built at Pleasant Grove, but it was soon after Thomas M. Casey gave the ground for this purpose. There was no money needed to build it, for everybody helped chop the logs and erect the building which was 24 by 30 feet in size, located about twenty rods southwest of the Hal Smith home. Everything was made of the best timber. The logs were oak, not hewn but scalped out and daubed with clay. There were two windows, one in the north and one in the west, each four feet in height with lights made of oiled paper, later replaced by 8 x 10 glass. The floor was of puncheon split like rails and hewn smooth. The building was heated by a fireplace at the east end. The chimney was made of sticks plastered with clay. The door at the south end of the building was made of clapboards hung on wooden hinges. It was seated with hewn puncheon supported on four pins. These seats were worn smooth by the slow process of friction at the expense of pants and dresses. A well was dug at one corner of the building as was the custom in those times. Services were held here for several years.

Just when this log church was torn down and the pretentious frame church was built is not now known, but it is supposed it was at the time the church was properly organized in 1839. It was the only

frame church with one exception for a hundred miles. Committees came for fifty and sixty miles to look at the wonderful church. A deed was properly made for the property in 1839 and the following men were chosen as trustees on July 2nd, to hold office for twenty years: Thomas M. Casey, James E. Johnson, Wm. B. Johnson, Elihu Maxey, Bennet Maxey, Charles Maxey and Jehu G. D. Maxey. The first preacher sent to the church when it was placed on regular work was Rev. Wm. T. Williams in 1839. The frame church was wainscotted about three feet high and sealed. No plastering was used. The pulpit, located as it is now, was at first four steps high inclosed in a circular affair of two-inch walnut. Then the preacher's head was very near the ceiling. Later the rostrum was taken out and two chairs placed back of the pulpit. The altar was made of walnut fifteen inches wide and placed in a semi-circle around the pulpit.

Public school was taught in the frame church. Benches were used for desks. Each child furnished his own chair, which was a four-legged home-made stool. At Thursday at eleven o'clock the people gathered at the church for class meetings, and great meetings they were.

The frame building was set on fir, probably by a tramp, on Christmas Eve, 1858. Harris Smith's father (Earl Smith's grandfather), living at Idlewood, saw the light during the early morning, but there were no telephones to use for notifying the people. The next morning Drucilla Swift (Dr. H. M. and A. R. Swift's mother) with her parents drove to the church for the services and were within a few rods before they knew that the building was gone.

The people immediately set about building another church. Adnah Maxey (Mrs. A. R. Swift's grandfather) had just completed his brick home. Mr. Maxey with the help of his sons agreed to burn the brick for the new church. He also donated the stone for the foundation from the pond in front of the present G. B. Holman farm. The people cleared the ashes away where the frame church had stood and hauled the stone and brick to the grounds. Masons boarding from home to home completed the thirty by forty foot brick building at a cost of about $2000. Drucilla Swift, a niece of Thomas M. Casey, and G. W. Prince, an adopted brother, then very small children, gathered hickory nuts

and sold them to raise one dollar each to help pay the expense of building the new church.

In the fall of 1859 the work was completed and Rev. G. N. Hughey was assigned to the charge. At the Quarterly Conference he had a resolution that all men sit on the east side of the church and the women on the west side. The salary was set at $470.00. In 1869 it was raised to $900.00.

On the Fourth of July, 1861, six Sunday Schools gathered at this church. Over fifteen hundred people were present.

In 1851 there were nine officers in the Sunday School and an average of twenty-five scholars present.

The pulpit in the church is one of the finest in Jefferson County. It was hand made by Sylvanis Foster, a civil war veteran and donated to the church between 1890 and 1895.

Much of the sterling quality in the character of the early settlers can be seen in the descendents of today. Such character founded on the religious characteristics of James E. Johnson, who never took a drink of water without first thanking the Lord for it, will not be soon eliminated from the pages of history. Thomas M. Casey held secret prayer in the timber back of his house, and fingerprints where he clasped a wild grape vine could be seen for years after he departed this world.

One of the highlights concerning the history of Pleasant Grove Church in recent years is the building of the present church, which was dedicated in 1924. This was the fourth church to be built on this site, it being preceded by three other buildings: a log, a frame, and a brick church.

The first brick church, built in 1859, was sixty-four years old in 1923, when the decision to replace it was made. Those early brick buildings were not as substantial as those built today. There were cracks in its walls, one especially noticeabls which ran from above the front door to the roof. An iron brace rod on the inside south wall and another on the inside west wall helped hold the walls in place. One Sunday morning after Sunday School some of the men present made an examination of the loft of the church and there they discovered some of the hewn joists supporting the ceiling had slipped

from their position on the wall, so the building was considered dangerous, especially in the event of a wind storm. The problem of replacing the old building with a new one was acute. The members set forth with determination to accomplish the task, but a year and eight months were to elapse before the new church was ready for service.

On April 2nd and 3rd of 1923, the old church was emptied of seats, piano and pulpit, and the floor was taken up. Less than a week later the windows were taken out and the roof taken off by a number of men, including the pastor, Rev. Charles Ramsden. On April 3 there was purchased of G. B. Hawkins two carloads of brick to be shipped to Idlewood. They arrived April 11th and 14th, and were promptly unloaded by a number of teams. In those days the Southern Railroad Company maintained a siding at Idlewood where freight cars were loaded and unloaded. Passenger trains stopped there on flag, and a small depot was there to shelter passengers.

A tentative plan for the new church was submitted and generally approved on which a cost of $5000 was estimated. This plan was later changed in favor of a plan received from the Bureau of Architecture of the Methodist Episcopal Church (now Methodist Church since 1939). This plan was studied and discussed and modified to suit the location and conditions and was approved without a dissenting vote by a meeting of the congregation held on the evening of June 8, 1923. Robert B. Moss was chairman of the Committee on Plans and Specifications, which committee was named the Building Committee by the Quarterly Conference held on June 9, 1923. Mr. Moss was also treasurer of the building fund, with Robert Paisley as secretary. These men devoted many days of labor and evenings of work over the problems necessary to the building of the church.

The estimated cost of the church on the approved plans was $6500 for a building with auditorium approximately 30 by 40 feet inside measurements and two 12 by 15-foot classrooms, a vestibule on the southeast corner with belfry above, and a full basement.

The work of clearing away the brick and debris of the old church continued, with the ladies bringing lunch and helping clean the brick. On October 29, 1923, a few men including Rev. Z. W. Story, who replaced Rev. Ramsden after annual conference, began excavating

from their position on the wall, so the building was considered dangerous, especially in the event of a wind storm. The problem of replacing the old building with a new one was acute. The members set forth with determination to accomplish the task, but a year and eight months were to elapse before the new church was ready for service.

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for the basement. Sand and rock were ordered shipped to Idlewood. C. M. Winn contracted to do the basement concrete work for $1.00 per hour for his time and $1.00 per hour for his machine, other labor to be paid for by the church.

On November 26 constructing levels and making forms began, and the first concrete was poured on December 1. A severe cold wave came when the floor was put in and hay and all available coverings were used to protect the newly poured concrete, but the efforts were unsuccessful, the floor was damaged, and a new floor had to be put in the next spring over the damaged floor, making a floor seven inches thick in the basement. The cost of the basement was about $1250.

The brick work began June 30, 1924 by Oscar Williams at a contract price of $1500. W. T. Dennis was hired at his offer of $1.00 per hour as a carpenter and also to superintend the carpenter work. The total carpenter work amounted to $1430. Walter Atkinson's bid of $263 on window and door frames and outside doors and transoms was accepted.

The cornerstone was donated by the Mt. Vernon Monument Company. The laying of the cornerstone was on July 13, 1924. Rev. C. L. Peterson, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Mt. Vernon, preached the sermon at the cornerstone laying; others speaking briefly were Norman H. Moss, Mrs. J. M. Swift and Judge Albert Watson.

The work progressed and the Dedication Day arrived on December 7, 1924. Dr. Cameron Harmon, President of McKendree College at Lebanon, Illinois, preached the dedicatory sermon.

The cost of the new church was approximately $11,000. Every one had a part in helping build the church including the Primary Sunday School Class, who paid $165.00 for the furnace. Every dollar counted, and ten of them came into the building fund from the sale of a horse furnished Rev. Ramsden by the church for transportation and sold when he left the Circuit in the fall of 1923.

The 100th Anniversary (Centennial) was observed on Sunday, August 13, 1939, one hundred years after the church was formally organized in 1839, although a log church was probably erected soon after the first burial in the cemetery in 1820. The Centennial was observed with a big basket dinner on the grounds; a tent was erected

in the church yard where old relics and souvenirs were exhibited. Sunday School teachers from West Salem and Hopewell churches taught the Sunday School classes at the ten o'clock hour. After the Sunday School hour and in the afternoon several visitors spoke, the oldest speaker being Sylvanus Foster, last survivor of the Civil War in Jefferson County, who had built and presented to the church the pulpit.

The new church had become old enough for a new roof in October, 1946. In the fall and winter of 1947 the interior was redecorated, which also included new plaster for the ceiling, refinishing the floors, and painting the outside woodwork. Services were held in the basement during this period which lasted about five months.

Referring now to the land where the cemetery and church are located in Shiloh Township, bordering the west line of Mt. Vernon Township, there are two deeds on record, both from Thomas M. Casey and Harriet, his wife, to the Trustees of the M. E. Church and their successors. The first deed recorded in June 1841 (Deed Book A, page 707) conveyed a parcel of land 14 by 16 rods amounting to one and two-fifths acres. The names of the trustees in this deed are named in Rev. Seymour's history and were to hold office 20 years. The second deed recorded twenty years later in July 1861 (Deed Book M, page 461) increased the size of the cemetery to 23 by 28 rods (four acres and four square rods) which is the present church grounds and cemetery.

Many years later a number of the friends and patrons of Pleasant Grove Cemetery, wishing to insure the future care of the resting place of their departed loved ones, petitioned subscriptions to an endowment fund, the interest and interest only of such fund to be used from year to year in caring for the cemetery. Wishing to make it legal and more secure, R. B. Moss, J. N. Pettit, Harris Smith, A. F. Maxey, R. F. Clow and T. J. Holtslaw made application for and obtained a charter under the state as an incorporated body, to be known as "Pioneer Pleasant Grove Cemetery Association." The above mentioned charter was filed for record on March 25, 1912 and recorded in Book 82 Page 312 of Deeds, Jefferson County, Illinois.

According to the early religious history of Jefferson County, the majority of the early settlers in Jefferson County were Methodists, several of them Methodist ministers. This was different from most of Southern Illinois, for in the majority of the counties the Baptists were the pioneers of religion. The Methodists organized the first church society in the county in 1819 and in the fall of 1820 a house was built at Old Union, where the Old Union Cemetery is located. However, the building has long been gone and in recent years a Baptist church has been built near the cemetery. The first religious society organized in Mt. Vernon Township was Baptist and was organized in the old log courthouse in 1820. In the fall of 1821 a Methodist house was built at Old Shiloh, both of these early buildings being used for church and school purposes. Mt. Vernon had no Methodist church until about 1836 and the people walked out from town to Old Union for preaching services except when services were held in the courthouse or in private houses.

Pleasant Grove, after being properly organized in 1839, was part of the Mt. Vernon Circuit except from 1851 to 1869, when it was a part of the Walnut Hill Circuit. The annual conference of 1869 united Mt. Vernon Circuit with a part of the Walnut Hill Circuit and a part of Knob Prairie, making a large circuit called the Mt. Vernon Circuit. At this time the circuit consisted of the following churches: Pleasant Grove, Rome, Hopewell, Shiloh, Little Grove, Salem, Bethel, Elk Prairie, Knob Prairie and Zion. In 1944 the circuit was reduced to three charges: Pleasant Grove, West Salem and Hopewell.

The following is a nearly complete and correct list of ministers who have served Pleasant Grove Church, the date given being that in which the conference year began, in autumn: 1839, William T. Williams; the following seven not in order: John J. Hill, Norman Allen, Thomas Jones, Rev. Van Cleve, T. J. Farmer, Thomas A. Eaton, LaFayette Casey; 1847, John Thatcher; 1848, Isaac Kimber; no record for two years; 1851, Richard I. Nall; 1852, James Walker; 1853, Wiley Wood; 1854, J. A. Scarritt; 1855, A. Campbell; 1856, Cavey Lambert; 1857, George W. Keener; 1858, John Shepherd; 1859, G. W. Hughey; 1860-1861, John W. Lane; 1862, J. C. Willoughby; 1863, T. O. Spencer; no record for five years; 1869-1870, L. A. Harper; 1871, Wm. Van Cleve; 1872-1873,

J. B. Ravenscroft; 1874, G. W. Farmer; 1875, C. N. Bottorff; 1876-1877, S. Brooks; 1878, J. P. Younghing; 1879-1880, J. J. Flint; 1881, J. R. Reefe; 1882, Levi S. Walker; 1883, W. E. Ravenscrofts; 1884-Dec. 1884, Thomas Sharp; 1884, H. W. Leever; 1885-1886, W. A. Browder; 1887-1888 (no notation); 1889-1890, H. Hutchcraft; 1891-92-93, Silas Green; 1894-1895, W. D. McIntosh; 1896-97-98-99, Josiah C. Kinison; 1900-1901, John H. Davis; 1902, William Powis; 1903-1904, A. G. Proctor; 1905-1906, Charles Atchison; 1907-1908, Samuel Albright; 1909-10-11, S. O. Sheridan; 1912-13-14-15, William J. Hopper; 1916-1917, Marion S. Bumpus; no preacher from Oct., 1918, to Jan., 1919; Jan. 1, 1919 to Sept., 1920, R. L. Seymour; 1920, Louis Jones; 1921-1922, Charles Ramsden; 1923-1924, Zachary W. Story; 1925-1926, Angus Phillips; 1927-28-29, W. J. Leslie; 1930-1931, Henry C. Ingram; 1932-1933, Marion Jackson; 1934-35-36-37, J. L. Miller; 1938- W. E. Shaffer; 1939-1940, A. B. Clodfelter; 1941, J. T. Smith, who was ill four months and his place filled by C. I. Heflin during his illness; 1942-43-44, Orlando W. Brakemeyer; 1945-1946, Cal C. Ryan, who was in school until Feb., 1946. Rev. Earle Harmon supplied the circuit from Oct. 1945 to Feb. 1, 1946, until Rev. Ryan finished school.

The circuit year of 1947 was a nine-month year, and Paul E. Wartenbe served eight of those months. Following are subsequent ministers and the conference years they have served: Joseph C. Harris, 1948-1951; Mrs. Alma McLain, 1952-1953; Dennis Ramsey, 1954-1955; M. A. Souers, 1956; R. E. Willis, 1957; James E. Jefferies, 1958; Gary D. Jenkins, 1959; Benjamin Anderson, 1960-1961; and L. E. Hard, 1962.

No one living can estimate the great influence for good this church has rendered to the community.

PLEASANT HILL (LIMESTONE) BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1852 a group of Baptists met in a small log cabin located near Limestone Creek in southwest Rome Township and organized the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. This location was on the property now known as the Parker Sargent farm. The name "Limestone Church" stayed with the organization for most of its history, and many of the older people still refer to it by that name.

Among the charter members of the church were: Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Walker, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. James Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Williams, Mr. and Mrs. R. Whitlock. The early records of the church were destroyed by fire and there are other names, but they cannot now be located. The first pastor was Elder James A. Keele who died in 1867, the year the second church building used by the church was built.

The church met for a time following the moving from the cabin at a location now in the present cemetery where some of the dead had been buried before this move was made. This was a small frame building with a "lean to" type of shed on the east in which meetings were held during the warm weather. One of the stones, a part of the original foundation of this building, is easily located in the burial grounds. It was pointed out to the present pastor, Rev. Ross Partridge, by Rev. A. L. Smith, who was pastor of the church for thirty-three years.

The building in which the present congregation worships was erected in 1875 and has through the years undergone very extensive remodeling, as we shall discuss later.

The cemetery, where the small second building was located for a few years, is known as the "Westminister Abbey for Baptist ministers." The first pastor, Elder James A. Keele, is buried there along with other pastors of the church and other ministers. Among those buried here are: Elder W. P. Proffitt, Elder George Grant, Elder R. C. Keele, Elder Enoch Keele, Rev. Raymond P. Hay and his father, Rev. W. W. Hay, Elder A. L. Smith, Rev. Everette S. Apgar, and Rev. C. W. Maulding. Some other earlier ministers of the area no doubt are buried there, but it is impossible to locate all the graves. Other ministers have burial lots there or are planning on purchasing them.

The cemetery is under control of the church. It was under the supervision of Mr. Miles A. Osborn for many years. His son, Mr. N. W. Osborn, continued that service for many years. In 1955 the church presented Mr. N. W. Osborn a Certificate of Merit, the only one ever voted by the church, for his many years of service as a layman serving as Sunday School teacher, superintendent, Brotherhood president, Church and Cemetery Trustee and other offices with distinction. He was in the

furniture and undertaking business in Dix, Illinois, for fifty-five years previous to his death in 1960. The cemetery is now under the supervision of seven trustees who operate it under an endowment fund for perpetual care.

There was no District Association for the Baptist churches of the area until 1852, the year Pleasant Hill Church was organized. Many of them were known as "Union Baptist Churches" and Pleasant Hill was characterized as such for years. The Salem South Baptist Association was formed later and Pleasant Hill became a member of it, and now the Association has a membership of thirty-nine churches.

Pleasant Hill is known by the long pastorates of a few of the men who have served it. Three pastorates are especially outstanding as to length. Elder W. W. Hay served over twenty years. Elder A. L. Smith served thirty-three years, having been elected, according to the testimony of older members, that many times by private ballot without an opposing vote. The present pastor, Rev. Ross Partridge began his ministry with the church in 1935, and in three pastorates has served twenty-one years, beginning his twenty-second year on September 2, 1962. He was the first full-time pastor, being called full time in 1942.

Other pastors of this church have been: Rev. James A. Keele, Rev. George V. Grant, Rev. J. P. Proffitt, Rev. R. C. Keele, Rev. Enoch Keele, Rev. J. T. Payne, Rev. Sam Wilson, Rev. Isaac A. Dale, Rev. J. R. Keele, Rev. E. N. Overstreet, Rev. J. M. Billingsley, Rev. Sam McCoy, Rev. Frank C. Hooker, Rev. John B. Maulding, Rev. Ross Davidson, Rev. J. T. Waring. Rev. A. L. Smith served the Salem South Baptist Association as Moderator for twenty-eight years, Rev. Sam McCoy served for nine years, and the present pastor, Rev. Ross Partridge, has served for ten years and is holding office as this is written in 1962.

The church has ordained the following men to the ministry during the past twenty years: Rev. Paul N. Jolly, Denver, Colorado; Rev. H. Byron Bruce, Kansas City, Missouri; and Rev. Lester Riley, Texico, Illinois. All are active in the ministry.

Other outstanding persons of service to the church through the years have been: Monroe Jennings, Harrison Jennings, Francis Purcell, B. J. Hawkins, J. O. Purcell (treasurer for many years and cashier

of the First State Bank of Dix, Illinois for forty-five years), T. J. Holtslaw, Andrew Riley, Emma Jennings (organist for thirty-five years), and many others. The present officers of the church who have served many years with distinction are: Miss Gretta Osborn (organist for the past twenty-five years), Mrs. Muriel (Holtslaw) Badger, (church clerk), Mrs. Carrie E. Freeman (church treasurer), Mrs. Nellis Smith (financial secretary). The deacons are: Mr. Carl Jolly (who is also Sunday School Superintendent), Mr. Oscar McGhee, Mr. Walter A. Purcell, Mr. Earl Hooker, Mr. John Phillips, Mr. Willis Keele and Mr. C. J. Badger. Mrs. Willis Keele is W.M.U. President, Mr. Walter A. Purcell is Brotherhood President, and Mr. Edd Lee is Baptist Training Union Director. Many other people of the past and present have rendered outstanding service, but it is an impossibility to name all.

In 1947 the church began a remodeling program under Rev. John B. Maulding, completing a new basement and purchasing new church furniture. In 1952 the church built a new educational building under the pastorate of Rev. Ross Partridge and dedicated it at the Centennial Celebration in August, 1952, an outstanding service in the history of the church. In 1957, the church again entered into a building program constructing a new brick frontal addition consisting of new class rooms, a balcony, two modern nurseries, a new foyer and other improvements. In 1959 the church purchased air conditioning equipment for the entire building and now enjoys this service. The church plant now consists of three department assemblies, twenty-five rooms and is a modern rural church plant with an estimated value of $75,000 with more than $45,000 being used in the past few years in the improvement plans.

The church is a leading missionary church, having led the Salem South Baptist Association in per capita giving for World Missions for the past many years. It has a full-time program under the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention and is cooperating with the Illinois Baptist State Association in mission work. The membership of the church is now 435.

MT. VERNON PANHELLENIC CLUB

In 1927 twenty-two Mt. Vernon women who were members of Greek letter college fraternities affiliated with National Panhellenic Congress organized a local Panhellenic chapter which was also affiliated with the National Congress. The purpose of the local chapter was forming a close and pleasant association of the members.

The twenty-two charter members were: Bernadine Buckham, Doris Clark, Nellis Clark, Catherine Conlew, Pearl Dodds, Sue Doolin, Marykate Echols, Beatrice Elmhurst, Frances Fearheiley, Hazel Gilbert, Ruth Gilbert, Ethel Green, Ruth Hagey, Marion Hamilton, Geneva Kuentz, Maxine Myers, Mable Pavey, Pauline Sikorski, Laurabel Stables, Leone Threlkeld, and Irene Threlkeld.

The group held unusual and unique monthly parties, to the great enjoyment of members and guests. While the club was small, all parties were held in the homes of members. One project was raising money to lend worthy girls who wanted to continue their schooling.

The club has grown yearly, and thirty-five years after its organization, it has fifty-five members and is still an active club.

P E O, CHAPTER GO

PEO, a cultural, religious and social sisterhood, was founded January 21, 1869, at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Chapter GO, Mt. Vernon, was organized January 27, 1947, by Mrs. Ruhe, our state organizer, at the home of Mrs. Howard Casey, at which time the following members were initiated: Mrs. Paul Broyles, Mrs. John Burks, Mrs. Howard Casey, Mrs. J. J. Conlew, Mrs. Maurice DeWitt, Mrs. Clarence C. DeWitt, Mrs. Marshall Hall, Mrs. Frank Harrison, Mrs. George Howard, Jr., Mrs. Leo Horton, Miss Alene G. Hutchison, Mrs. Donald D. Lee, Mrs. Will I. Lewis, Mrs. H. D. Lough, Mrs. Ralph Maxey, Mrs. Roy B. Maxwell, Mrs. Philip B. Newkirk, Mrs. Everett Phillips, Mrs. D. Clarence Wilson.

Our 1962 membership includes the following: Olivia K. Broyles (Mrs. Paul), Edna Casey (Mrs. Howard), Catherine Conlew (Mrs. John J.), Louise Davidson (Mrs. John A.), Edrine Davis (Mrs. John D.), Beulah DeWitt (Mrs. Lloyd R.), DeWitt, Helen Louise (Mrs. Arnold), Martha DeWitt (Mrs. Maurice), Ross DeWitt (Mrs. Clarence), Marjorie Farrar

(Mrs. Fletcher), Ethel Fitch (Mrs. Paul), Ruth Fruzier (Mrs. Clyde F.), Donna Garrison (Mrs. Wain), Laura Hall (Mrs. Marshall), Ethel Harrison (Mrs. Frank), Lois Horton (Mrs. Leo), Sylvia Howard (Mrs. George Wm. III), Ann Howard (Mrs. John), Mabel Howard (Mrs. George), Aline Hutchison (Miss), Ferne Lee (Mrs. Donald), Stanley Lewis (Mrs. Bill J.), Rose Griffith Lough (Mrs. Harry), Ruth Maxwell (Mrs. Roy), Octa Newkirk (Mrs. Phillip), Betty Snodsmith (Mrs. Elmer), Hallie Starr (Mrs. Lester), Barbara Wilson (Mrs. C. James), Ruby Wilson (Mrs. D. Clarence), Dorothy Woodworth (Miss); and the following non-resident members: Beatrice Forsyth (Mrs. B.), Mary Phillips (Mrs. Everett), Freda Rush (Mrs. Everett E.), and Ann Weaver (Mrs. John).

JOSEPH PAYNE

Joseph Payne was born in Tennessee on March 7, 1806. He became a circuit riding Methodist minister, migrated to Illinois, and at the age of thirty-one purchased land on March 10, 1837, from the United States government in Section Sixteen, Shiloh Township. Mr. Payne died November 13, 1876 and is buried in Old Shiloh Cemetery. His land was kept in the Payne family for 106 years.

On May 1, 1838, the land adjacent to the Payne farm was purchased from the United States government by Franklin S. Casey for $1.25 per acre. Both farms are now combined as one and are owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Forest Brown, R. R. #2, Mt. Vernon.

HOW RAILROADS GOT STARTED IN THE 1800'S

(Taken from an article in the Mt. Vernon Register-News written by Addison Hapeman)

Swamps and railroads may seem at first glance to have nothing in common, and usually they don't; but in the last two-thinds of the last century these two unrelated subjects were very much in the public eye, at least in Jefferson County.

It all began in 1850, when the Illinois Central Railroad was chartered. The federal government had decided all at once that the country needed rail lines in every direction, and it was apparently ready to go to any length to get them. By a special act of Congress, the Illinois Central company was handed over, tax free, the right of way and every other section of land for two miles on each side of this right of way. This strip of land extended from Chicago to Cairo and comprised some two and a half million acres. This was given the company as an incentive to build, and it was indeed a powerful one, so the road was completed in record time. Some doubt was voiced as to the wisdom of placing this much land in private hands for fear that it would be held as a long-term speculation.

These fears proved groundless, since the farm magazines of 1855 speak of the fact that "The company is putting these lands in market on such terms as will enable any man with health and a reasonable amount of energy. to pay for them almost or altogether entirely out of their own proceeds." The northern part of Illinois was at that time just beginning to be settled.

There must have been enough objections to this land give-away that it was not repeated. The other young railroads had to get their start as best they could, and this is where the swamp land comes into the picture.

On September 28, 1850, Congress passed a law entitled: "An Act to enable the state of Arkansas and other states to reclaim the swamp lands within their limits," which gave the states named in the act all the swamp and overflowed lands within their borders for drainage, education, or internal improvements. The Illinois state legislature in 1851 accepted this, and gave the land to the counties in which it lay. This land was to be sold at $1.00 per acre for the

best, 75¢ for second grade and 50¢ an acre for what was left, to be paid in cash or worked out on the drainage ditches.

Jefferson County swamp land added up to 19,000 acres, but it was discovered that the Illinois Central had in some manner acquired 7000 acres of this. The records were gone over again, and more wet land was found to put the total back to 19,000. This land was then used as the carrot in front of the donkey, the bait to get a railroad in Jefferson County.

In February of 1855 the Mt. Vernon Railroad Company was formed, capital $500,000, and they began to hunt someone to build them a road. Vanduzer, Smith and Co. were chosen, the right of way was cleared from Ashley to Fairfield, most of the grade built and ties piled along it. Then mismanagement caught up with them, and Vanduzer, Smith and Co. went broke.

Next, in 1860, came Maurice H. Baron of New York, who contracted to build the remodeled Ashley and Mt. Vernon Railroad (to connect with the Illinois Central) and to run it 99 years; for the roadbed and 19,000 acres of swamp land, he was to pay the Mt. Vernon company $30,500. But Baron went to London to sell railroad stock and never came back.

In 1868 they tried it again. The firm of Crawford and Doane agreed to build the road for the 19,000 acres of swamp land (it hadn't dried up yet), the right of way, the depot grounds, and $100,00. Things looked so rosy that the company tried to get a charter to extend the line on to St. Louis. This caused complications that lost them the road.

Finally, in 1869, the contract was awarded that brought a railroad into Mt. Vernon. Wilson and Wilson did the work for $100,000 in county bonds, 14,700 acres in swamp lands, three acres within 600 yards of the court house for the depot and the right of way from Ashley to Mt. Vernon.

In 1883 the Air Line, east from Mt. Vernon, was using the L. & N. tracks to St. Louis, but was expecting to build their own line in the near future. This turned out to be the Southern. In 1883 the Kaskaskia, St. Elmo and Southern was begun; this became the C.& E.I.

These above-named railroads are the ones that finally made the grade into the county (Pardon the pun). The ones that fell by the wayside make quite a list: The Sangamon and Massac, The Marion and Jefferson County and The Belleville and Fairfield, 1855; The St. Louis and Louisville, 1857; St. Louis, Mt. Carmel and New Albany, 1869; Mt. Vernon and Vincennes, 1881; The Toledo, Texas and Rio Grande, 1882; and The Mt. Vernon and Tamaroa, 1883.

Of the later roads into the county: about 1905 the Northern and Southern (later the C.B.& Q.) built one track through, five years later adding a second track. The Jacksonville, Northwestern and Southeast Railway was started in 1867 but its builders were in no great hurry, for it was used only a couple of years, long enough to give the village of Boyd ideas of being a shipping center; then the rails were pulled up and the road quit. This made it the first completed railroad to be abandoned in the county.

MT. VERNON ROTARY CLUB

The first activity relative to Rotary in Mt. Vernon came in about 1918 when Fred Watson, Charles H. Thompson, Harold "Tex" Flint and others became interested. Prospects for the organization of a club were discussed, but for various reasons nothing materialized at that time, and it was not until the spring of 1920 that the organization took place. By that time Flint had moved away and Fred Watson was out of town for several weeks; therefore, neither of them was among the charter members.

The Mt. Vernon Rotary Club was organized on April 10, 1920, by Charlie Taylor of Harrisburg, who was District Governor of the old 12th District which comprised all, or practically all, of the State of Illinois. The late Charles H. Thompson was the principal local factor in forming the club and was selected as its first president.

The membership of the original club was 23, as follows: Charles H. Thompson, Insurance; Wainwright Davis, Wholesale Candy; Ralph K. Neber, Car Building; G. Brownlow Hawkins, Wholesale and Retail Bakery; Robert Earl Davis, Auto Retailing; Henry Ben Ward, Dry Goods, Retail; Floyd F. Stables, Lumber, Retail; Frank H. Hope, Telephone

Service; Conrad Schul, Lawyer; Maurice J. Seed, Newspaper; Kieth T. Strattan, Hardware, Retail; Norman J. Sugg, Newspaper; Wilbur Gilmore, Physician, Roentgenologist; Orville Hawkins, Religion, Protestant; Richard F. Buckham, Drugs, Retail; E. E. Edmondson, Physician, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat; John Edwin Rackaway, Newspaper; Harry Heidler, Grocery, Retail; Earl B. Hinman, Fire Insurance; Harold J. Howard, Grocer, Wholesale; Vharles R. Keller, Banker; Myrl Lumbattis, Dentist; and G. Koser Johnson, House Furnishings.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

William Tong, who is buried in Old Union Cemetery, was in the Maryland Militia in the regiment commanded by General William Smallwood. He died in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, in 1850, having been born August 9, 1756, near Mt. Vernon, Virginia, the home of George Washington. He also served in the Virginia troops and was in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. It is said that he was one of George Washington's body guards. He came to Illinois and lived in Mt. Vernon for some time before his death.

Peter Owen is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. We know almost nothing of him except that he served in the Revolution.

Daniel Chandler was from South Carolina, where he served in the Ninety-sixth District, beginning February, 1776, under Captain Zarre Smith, for four months. He again served in May, 1777, with Captain James Lisle and Colonel Jonas Beard, for two months, and one month with Captain Frederick Lipham. In 1778 and 1779 he served for over four months. He again served in June, 1780, with Captain William Smith and Colonel John Thomas; was in the battles of Cedar Springs and Musgrove Mill, and in constant service until the close of the war. He was made lieutenant under Captain Jeremiah Williams and Colonel John Hammond. He came to Jefferson County, Illinois, where he was pensioned and where he died.

Francis Haney was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, April 19, 1754. He enlisted in Botetourt County, serving from June, 1776, to December, 1776, under Captain Daniel Smith. He again served from September, 1778, for seven months with Captain George Adams, again

for three months with Colonel Isaac Shelby, and once more for nine months with Captains George Maxfield, Robert Caldwell, and John Martin. He was pensioned, came to Morgan County, Illinois, and died in Jefferson County, Illinois.

John Murphy served in the war from North Carolina. He came to Illinois in 1818; he died very aged, probably in Jefferson County, according to North Carolina Records and County History.

Joel Pace was born in Virginia on July 28, 1762. He served in the Revolution from that state, enlisting in the Continental Army in Henry County, Virginia, in March, 1779, under Captain Robards and Colonel Heath and Colonel Davis. He served eighteen months. He removed to Kentucky after the war and later to Jefferson County, Illinois, settling in Mt. Vernon Township, where he died. He is buried in the Pace Cemetery south of Mt. Vernon.

Thomas Williams was from North Carolina, where he served during the Revolutionary War, serving in both infantry and cavalry. He came to Illinois when it was a territory, was pensioned, settled in Jefferson County, where he probably died.

Ambrose Waulding was born in Virginia on August 1, 1755. He served in the Virginia troops during the Revolution. He came to Hamilton County, Illinois, died there August 25, 1833, and is buried near McLeansboro, Illinois at the Ten-Mile Baptist Church Cemetery. In 1917 a granddaughter was still living who had attended his funeral. His grave is marked by a substantial monument which bears the following inscription: "Immortal may their memory be who fought and died for liberty." Ambrose Waulding was one of the founders of the village of Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

On November 13, 1904, at 2:00 p. m., a large group of Baptists met in a tent on the corner of Welkins Street and Conger Avenue to organize a Baptist church in that part of town.

The district missionary was Rev. B. F. Rodman who was chosen as moderator of the meeting. Rev. A. A. Todd, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon which at that time was a Southern Baptist Church, was chosen clerk.

Seventy-three persons were sent out at their request from the First Baptist Church to organize this church. After this group resolved itself into an independent church, twenty-eight persons joined on relation of christian experience.

Following are officials at this first meeting: Deacons: Charles Webber, James R. Miller, Perry Lowery, William Cates, with Grant Estes added to this list subject to ordination; church clerk, John E. Throgmorton; church trustees, Charles Webber, H. Marquis, J. W. Hicks; church treasurer, W. H. Bryden.

The new church adopted as its name "The Second Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois." Delegates present on the organization council were: First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Rev. A. A. Todd, A. D. Webb, G. W. Howard, W. H. Poole; First Baptist Church of DuQuoin, Illinois, Rev. B. F. Rodman; Baptist Church of Ewing, Illinois, Dr. J. A. Leavitt (President of Ewing College), Elder Bell Goodwin; First Baptist Church of Bluford, Elder Calvin Richardson; Baptist Church of Sims, Illinois, Elder W. J. Anderson. The charge to the church was given by Elder Bell Goodwin, and the sermon to the church was delivered by Dr. J. A. Leavitt.

The site for the building on Conger Avenue near 11th Street was chosen on December 29, 1904. At the same meeting a pastor was elected, being J. W. Allen of the Ashley Baptist Church.

The church building was dedicated the fourth Sunday in July, 1905. Ministers who dedicated the building were Rev. W. P. Throgmorton and Rev. B. F. Rodman. The dedication sermon was delivered by J. W. Danberry.

The following served as pastors of the church after Rev. J. W. Allen between 1905 and 1940: Arthur Bell, P. A. Haney, Charles Bersche, the Reverends Stierwalt, Urch, Bagwell, Calvert, Patterson, Anderson, Bird Green, Hedges, F. L. Karn, Bird Green (a second time), L. Tucker and Sam McCoy.

The original church structure was destroyed by fire on January 21, 1940, along with all of the church records. Within a year, the congregation under the leadership of its minister, Rev. Sam McCoy, had built the brick and stone structure that now stands at 11th and Conger. The new building had a seating capacity of four hundred and was built at a cost of approximately $16,000. The pastor, Reverend McCoy, who realized a substantial income each month from oil properties, contributed a large amount in the financing of the new church. He and the congregation did all the common labor on the building.

On September 19, 1956, under the leadership of its pastor, Rev. John Tellis Young, the decision to relocate the Second Baptist Church was made. A suitable site was sought, and on October 17, 1956, the church authorized the purchase of the Bickley property at 605 South 34th Street in the Western Gardens Division of Mt. Vernon. The property was paid for and the deed recorded in the early part of the year 1960.

On Sunday afternoon, June 28, 1959, under the third pastorate of Rev. W. Carl Whittington, a meeting was held for the purpose of discussing plans and making preparation for the future work of constructing a new building.

The following month, a planning and survey committee was appointed, Don Gowler being appointed chairman of the committee. Brother Gowler soon moved to Kansas City, and Dr. Glen Filberth was appointed chairman with Al Leffler as his assistant. Other members of the committee were: Melvin Bayer, Frank Faulkner, Howard Gowler, Robert Reynolds, Kenneth Sandusky, George Briesacher, Edward Funkhouser, Arthur Mumbower, Harl Reynolds, Don Thomas, Loren DeJournett, Howard Gregory, Herbert Page, Carl Duncan, W. M. Gregory, Evan Pearson and Herbert Etheridge. Members added as time moved on were

Arthur Eater, Donald DeMent, Leonard Hands, Roy Hays, Evans Lemay, and Thurman Rector.

On October 27, 1959, the church voted to employ architects to draft plans and specifications of the new building. After many meetings, appointment of sub-committees and several hundred miles of travel, the church voted to sell bonds, using the Broadway Plan of Church Finance in the amount of $60,000 to assist in the financing of the construction. On May 26, 1960, Leonard Hand was elected as general bond selling chairman with the central committee consisting of Rev. W. Carl Whittington, Herbert Page, Al Leffler, Donald DeMent, Carl Duncan and Frank Faulkner, who were approved by church action on June 1, 1960.

On August 3, 1960, the working drawings submitted by the architect were accepted by the church. On September 14, 1960, the contracts were signed and the church body voted to sell the property on Conger Avenue and begin construction at the new location.

September 25, 1960, was the dawning of a great era as a large crowd of the membership and interested citizens gathered for the ground-breaking ceremonies. An old fashioned plow was pulled by various groups of members as a means of breaking the ground; at one time the plow handles were held by one of the church's eldest members, eighty-six-year-old Sister Ella Lane. The sod turned over, though not known at that time, was directly through the area where the pastor's study is now located.

On July 30, 1961, the new building was dedicated to God. At the time of this writing a new wing is being added to this building.

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

The original Social Security Law was passed by Congress and signed by the President in August, 1935. It provided for rather small monthly benefits to begin in January, 1942, and covered workers in commerce and industry only.

The Mt. Vernon office opened in 1937 in the John B. Rogers Building. We had major changes in the law in 1939, and monthly benefits were started in January, 1940.

Beginning with 1950, we have had major changes in the law every two years. In 1950 the self-employed were covered; in 1954 farmers were covered. Also, domestics, farm laborers and most professional groups were covered by the law during this period of time.

The Social Security Office remained in the John B. Rogers Building until April, 1957, when because of the increased work load it became necessary to secure larger quarters. Our office has been in the present location in the Ford Building at 229 South Tenth Street since that time.

At the present time, the Mount Vernon office services the counties of Jefferson, Marion, Perry, Effingham, Clay, Wayne and Edwards. We have a personnel of fourteen, and we serve approximately 19,000 men, women and children who are receiving monthly Social Security benefit checks in this seven-county area. We are paying at the rate of slightly more than $1,000,000 per month or over $12,000,000 per year.

The following table indicates the number of beneficiaries as of December 31, 1960, for each of the seven counties. It also shows the amount of benefits paid.

COUNTY	BENEFICIARIES	AMOUNT PAID
Clay	1,848	$ 100,670
Edwards	977	53,117
Effingham	2,491	137,308
Jefferson	3,737	218,765
Marion	4,541	255,877
Perry	2,580	149,242
Wayne	2,022	108,360
	18,196	$1,023,339

-- Emil J. Hoffman,
District Manager

SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, September 17, 1961, Bishop Edwin Edgar Voight of the Illinois area of the Methodist Church preached the consecration sermon at the Shiloh Methodist Church on Richview Road, Mt. Vernon.

The modern brick structure stands as a beacon light for a growing community and is the result of many years of dreams and efforts. Its seventy-two members had taken a gigantic step, and the new building stands as a testimony of a living and vital faith.

The congregation in the new building is the result of a merger of the "Old" Shiloh Church which stood about a mile northeast of the new church and of the "New" Shiloh Church, which was about a half mile east of the new building. The two churches have a most interesting history.

Methodists began to arrive in Jefferson County early in the nineteenth century. First, a rawboned young man came leading a horse upon which sat his young wife and their baby. Their possessions were few, the most precious being an iron skillet and a Bible. They camped for the night near the Old Shiloh Church later stood, and while the wife prepared the evening meal, Zadok Casey leaned against a gigantic oak in meditation. He went on his knees to pray for courage and guidance. This was in 1817.

In the following year, Louis Johnson and Edwin Maxey moved to the community, and a Methodist Society was formed in the year 1819, with Zadok Casey as the leader. Shiloh Methodist Church traces her history to this Methodist Society which met in the home of Edwin Maxey.

In 1820, a school was built which was used both as a school and a church. A cemetery was laid out by Governor Casey, William Maxey and Louis Johnson. The Old Shiloh Church was first located in this cemetery, and was built after the first school/church building burned. The building was moved in 1918.

At the general conference in New York in 1844 there arose an issue which was to affect the people of the Shiloh community. Indeed, it was to cause men who were adrend christians, sincere and devoted, in all sections of the country, to separate and to go different ways. The issues were slavery, and the authority of the Bishop as compared to the general conference of the church. The slavery issue was to plunge the nation into a bitter struggle, with brother going against brother.

In 1845, at Louisville, Kentucky, another meeting took place that was to affect the people of the Shiloh community, for it was there

that the Methodist Episcopal Church South was formed. The machinery of church government was the same as it had been before the break. The method of working and content of the preaching had not altered. The southern church was perhaps more evangelistic and wanted no attention paid to the social issue of slavery, preferring to preach the "Old Gospel" and to stir revival fires. By the year 1850 the southern church had a total membership of 757,245, of which 207,706 were negroes.

Old Shiloh elected to go with the Methodist Episcopal Church South; and the group that formed the New Shiloh Church did so in order to stay with the Methodist Episcopal Church and to express a strong abolitionist policy, at the same time preaching the warm-hearted doctrines which had made the church great. Church records have been lost, the church has been a part of many "Charges" or "Circuits," but it is believed that New Shiloh was built in 1847.

After years of negotiation, years after the issues which had caused the separation had been settled, on May 10, 1939, in an historic meeting in Kansas City, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church united to form The Methodist Church.

Twenty years later, on November 7, 1959, a specially called quarterly conference was held at the New Shiloh Church for the purpose of voting on a resolution to merge the Old Shiloh Church and the New Shiloh Church, and to call the church the Shiloh Methodist Church. This resolution was voted on, and passed by a large majority. A decision was reached to build a new church and to authorize the officers of the new church to decide the disposition of the old properties.

The old buildings have been razed and the properties given to the cemetery associations to be used for burial purposes. Thus two landmarks have been removed from the scene in Jefferson County, but in their place has risen a striking structure which says to the world, "Methodism is on the march."

With the cooperation of the Southern Illinois Conference Board of Missions and the Town and Country Commission of the Southern Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church, and with the efforts and leadership of men like Gilbert Dente, Ellison Phillips, Clifford Wilson, Wesley Dooden, Roy Hamilton, Gerald Isaac, Thomas Osborn, Glen

Smith, Frank Cherry, Elmer Bumpus, Walter Goddard, James Newell and Jerry Phillips and with the tireless efforts of the women of the church, the congregation has responded in a wonderful way.

The Shiloh Churches have long been noted for their evangelistic fervor and zeal. Seventeen men have gone out to serve in the greater ministry of the church, and it is the prayer of the united congregation that this is just a start.

On September 17, 1961, the minister, Rev. Clair Clark, was in charge of the Sunday activities which began with church school at 10:00 a.m. and included preaching services at 11:00a.m. with the minister bringing the morning sermon. There was a basket dinner at noon, and the highlight of the day was at the formal consecration service at 2:00 p.m., with Bishop Voight presiding. The Bishop was assisted by the District Superintendent, Rev. Clyde Funkhouser, of the Harrisburg District, and the paston. Many of the former pastors were in attendance, along with the ministers of the Mt. Vernon area. A cordial invitation to the public to attend all of the services of the day had been extended by the minister and the church, and it was a day of great rejoicing.

The Shiloh Methodist Church, with its great history behind it, continues to grow and is a "beacon light" not only in its immediate locality but to every one who has ever felt its benign influence.

SECURITY BANK OF MT. VERNON

Security Bank of Mt. Vernon has served residents of Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County continuously since 1910. From its opening at Opdyke in October 1 of that year as the Security State Bank with assets of $6,000, through its move to a new building at 119 North Ninth Street in Mt. Vernon in 1948, when its assets were approximately $2,000,000, it has grown to its present strength of over $13,000,000 in total resources.

The ten founders and original directors of Security State Bank were the following residents of Opdyke and the nearby area: Walter P. Estes, John Logan Ham, Robert L. Roane, Charles R. Ham, Runyon J. Estes, Henry Ben Cornelius, Fred Cornelius, Frank Knowles, Thomas Brown

and Gilbert Brown. Walter Estes, son of Runyon Estes, was the new bank's cashier and filled that position until 1957. The first president was John (J.A.L.) Ham, who served until his death in 1925. On the bank's opening day deposits of $1,600 were received and one loan for $141 was granted.

Robert L. Roane succeeded Mr. Ham as president and served until his death in 1942.

During the years, Security Bank served its trade area well. Cashier Estes loved to recound how he avoided a "run" of withdrawals by taking depositors into the vault during the depression in the 1930's and showing them that their cash was safe.

Mt. Vernon had had only one bank since 1933, and in 1947 a group of Mt. Vernon business men purchased the Security State Bank. At that time the Opdyke bank's directors were H. I. Kent, president; Walter Estes, S. M. Mateer, William H. Wilson, Curt D. Ham and J. Roy Ham. The Hams were the sons of J. A. L. Ham, the bank's first president. In 1948 the bank moved into its new quarters in Mt. Vernon and became Security Bank of Mt. Vernon. The banking rooms were completely remodeled in 1957.

The present board of dierctors of Security Bank represents a cross section of leaders in agriculture, petroleum, law, manufacturing and retailing. Members are: John R. Mitchell (chairman), J. Marvin Powers (president), George W. Howard, Jr. (vice president), Lewis Brake, Glenn E. Cole, C. J. Covington, Ben Glassman, Curt D. Ham, Earl A. Hill, W. Joe Hill, Coyn Mateer, Harvey McCowen, Stanley Rosenberger, Eddie M. Self and D. Clarence Wilson.

Besides President Powers, who also serves as trust officer, other active officers are Ralph Stoops, vice president; John Howard, vice president and assistant trust officer; Roger O. Smith, cashier; and Norma J. Garrison and Rex L. Kelley, assistant cashiers. Both Smith and Mrs. Garrison were on the staff at the time of the move from Opdyke.

The officers of the bank believe that its growth is due to constant recognition by stockholders, directors, officers and employees of the bank's obligation to furnish complete banking service in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner. Their motto is: "Friendliness you can feel; Security you can trust."

MT. VERNON STATE TUBERCULOSIS SANITARIUM

The Mt. Vernon State Tuberculosis Sanitarium is operated under the direction of the Illinois Department of Public Health through the Division of Tuberculosis Control. The prime purpose of the Sanitarium is safeguarding the health of the citizens of the State of Illinois from tuberculosis by treatment and isolation of the infectious person.

The original one hundred-bed building was dedicated in 1951, and the additional fifty-bed wing was dedicated in 1957. It is brick and reinforced concrete construction and is located on twelve acres in the northwest section of Mt. Vernon. The building is three stories high and is partly four stories where the boilers and laundry are subterranean.

The Sanitarium serves approximately the southern one-fourth of the counties in Illinois, although patients from all counties are acceptable.

The length of stay is variable, depending upon how early the disease has been discovered, how active it has become and how the patient responds to treatment. Rest, nutrition and hygiene are important. Modern day drugs and surgery are the common methods of treatment. Modern laboratory, x-ray and rehabilitation services are available.

The Sanitarium is a part of a great team consisting of all the doctors, the Health Agencies, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the voluntary organizations dedicated to eradicating this infection.

It is staffed by approximately 125 employees of many varied categories and professions, and 76% of the staff are female.

Referrals are made by the patient's personal physician through the Tuberculosis Sanitarium Board of the specific county of the patient's residence.

This institution has had full accreditation since 1954 by The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

-- W. C. Davis

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The first official representative of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America to visit Mt. Vernon was the Right Reverend Philander Chase, the first Bishop of Illinois, who preached in this community in 1840. Bishop Chase, who was uncle to Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, had previously served as missionary bishop of Ohio before taking over responsibilities of the church in Illinois.

In 1875 Mrs. E. M. Punderson, the widow of an Episcopal priest, moved to Mt. Vernon with two other members of her family. Shortly after her arrival, Mrs. J. J. Beecher expressed her interest in and preference for this church. From this small group arose the hope that a congregation might be organized.

The fall of 1876 saw this hope brighten as Mrs. Punderson's brother, the Rev. Martin Moody, came to Mt. Vernon on his way west to labor as a missionary. At the urging of the Episcopalians here, and upon consultation with the Very Reverend D. W. Dresser, Dean of Cairo, Mr. Moody agreed to remain the winter and to conduct services, alternating between Mt. Vernon and Centralia. Accordingly, on the last Sunday in October, 1876, Dean Dresser and Mr. Moody held a public service in the Presbyterian Church.

A mission station was formally organized March 15, 1878, and numbered among its members were the families of H. W. Preston, William Pilcher, H. H. Simmons, T. T. Wilson, John Beecher and J. Gowenlock. Services were continued regularly in a school room near the Appellate Court House until May 26, 1878, when Mr. Moody was taken grievously ill and had to return east.

The Right Reverend George F. Seymour, first Bishop of Springfield, appointed the Rev. W. W. Steele and then of Carlyle, to resume regular services in Mt. Vernon and Centralia. Mr. Steele began his ministry here in February of 1877, and on February 9, 1880, he presented seven people to be confirmed by Bishop Seymour at a service in the Presbyterian Church.

The little congregation continued to worship in Strattan's Hall until new hopes arose with the arrival of the Rev. Ingram N. W. Irvine. Mr. Irvine was appointed rural dean of McLeansboro and made

his residence, in Mt. Vernon, serving both these congregations. Dean Irvine was a man of great energy and untiring zeal for the Lord's house. Immediately upon his arrival he began building programs for both congregations. In the fall of 1880, construction was begun on a new building for McLeansboro which in 1881 was consecrated as St. James' Episcopal Church by Bishop Seymour.

In Mt. Vernon it was decided to purchase and remodel the oldest church building in the city, built in 1838, which had previously been used by the Methodists and later by the Christian Church. Coincidentally, this building had occasionally been used for Episcopal services during Mr. Moody's tenure until the death of Mrs. Punderson in May of 1877.

The deed for the little church on North Casey Street was recorded on October 2, 1880, by E. M. Shepherd and the Hon. R. A. D. Wilbanks together with Dean Irvine, and after careful refurbishing the building was opened as Trinity Episcopal Church. It was in this building that the Rev. Warren Wade Way was ordained Deacon on May 24, 1892, and it continued to serve the needs of the congregation here until 1908 when a new building was erected on the corner of Eleventh and Harrison Streets during the tenure of the Rev. Edmond Phares.

After many years of alternating adversity and prosperity, at the conclusion of which the building was rented to the Lutherans of Mt. Vernon, the tide was turned by the coming of the Rev. John Edgar Gill as Vicar of Trinity Church on June 9, 1946. Father Gill reopened the building for the use of the Episcopal Church and regular services were resumed. Under his leadership the congregations grew greatly and approached its present size and prosperity. His death in an automobile accident on July 9, 1952, was a severe blow to the work of the church in this entire area. However, Father Gill's work has endured.

The following is a chronological list of clergy serving Trinity Church since its inception: The Rev. Frs. Martin Moody, W.M. Steele, Ingram N. W. Irvine, R. B. Hoyt, J. A. Matthews, W. J. Frost, B. O. Baker, J. N. Chesnutt, Percy St. Michael Podmore, Alexander Crone, Armand De Rosset Meares, George W. Preston, W. H. Tomlins, George P. Hoster, Allayne, W. M. Purce, Edmond Phares, The Venerable

H. M. Chittenden, The Rev. Frs. F. Philip Ormond Reed, R. Y. Barber, T. G. C. McCalla, A. O. France, Walter Whitehead, Franklin H. Spencer, Russell D. Laycock, S. E. Arthur, Warren L. Botkin, the Venerable John Edgar Gill, the Rev. Frs. Pomeroy H. Hartman, Ralph Markey, and William Neill Malottke.

UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS

The order of United Commercial Travelers of America was incorporated on January 16, 1888, in Columbus, Ohio. It is a fraternal, accident insurance organization, licensed in forty-seven states and eight provinces of Canada for the purpose of protecting the rights of its members and furnishing accident insurance protection. The national governing body is known as the Supreme Council and controls the activities of the organization at the international level. Within the Supreme Council are thirty-one divisions called Grand Councils. These thirty-one Grand Councils are divided into 651 groups known as Local Councils.

Mt. Vernon, Illinois, Council #523 was organized on the 27th day of July, 1913. Charter members were: R. G. Crawford, E. McTaggart, J. A. Wood, V. A. Bodine, W. Focht, R. E. Hinman, L. E. Doxsie, E. Wood, F. P. Watson, J. L. Cleveland, A. A. Puckett, O. S. Pace, P. L. Bean, W. J. Reinbart, J. L. Reece, H. Jacobs, W. E. Moore, V. A. Calpha, C. G. Seefluth, D. B. Owsley. The following were elected officers for the first year: Senior Counselor, P. L. Bean; Junior Counselor, C. G. Seefluth; Past Counselor, J. L. Cleveland; Secretary-Treasurer, J. L. Reece; Conductor, R. E. Hinman; Page, Ethelbert McTaggart; Sentinel, W. E. Moore; Executive Committee, O. S. Pace, R. G. Crawford, W. E. Moore; Examining Physician, Dr. Gilmore.

Since its beginning of twenty members in 1913, Mt. Vernon Council #523 has shown continued and progressive growth. On December 31, 1961, the membership totaled 864. Local Council officers at the time of this writing are: Senior Counselor, James O. Alexander; Junior Counselor, W. B. Porter; Past Counselor, Charles J. Hoit; Secretary-Treasurer, Lewis J. Hilliard; Conductor, Robert Snow; Page, William V. Lee; Sentinel, Roy E. Hayse; Chaplain, Amos F. Smith; Executive Committee: Marion Heifner, Chairman, Gene C. Cox, Frank H. Walker, Claire Latta; Examining Physician, Jean M. Modert, M. D.

Three local Counselors have received honors as Grand Counselors of the State of Illinois. They are: Ethelbert McTaggart, 1924; W. D. Isaac, 1955; and Gerald E. Isaac, 1961.

Aside from the many insurance benefits that United Commercial Travelers offers its members, many community activities are sponsored

and encouraged. At present, a Khoury League baseball team is sponsored, the Jefferson County Retarded Children's Association is being aided, and the local Council sponsors a free annual banquet for all members and their wives.

DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Unemployment compensation offices are located in all states of the Union, as well as in Canada, and are equipped to take unemployment claims for persons who have earned wages in any state or province of the two countries.

In Illinois, it is the duty of the Director of the Department of Labor to administer the Unemployment Compensation Act. The Commissioner of Unemployment Compensation, under the direction of the Director of Labor, administers the Illinois Unemployment Compensation Ace and the rules and regulations of the Act. Local unemployment compensation offices are established in communities throughout the state. These local offices are operated under the direction of a local unemployment compensation office manager who, together with a staff of trained personnel, has the responsibility of serving unemployed workers in the community.

The Mt. Vernon office of the Division of Unemployment Compensation is located at 225 South Ninth Street and is operated under the direction of Owen D. Herbert, Jr. He and his staff have the responsibility of serving unemployed workers in the four-county area of Jefferson, Hamilton, Wayne and Washington counties.

Unemployment compensation is a state-operated job insurance program which pays weekly benefits to the unemployed person, if he meets the legal requirements for the insurance. Workers who were paid wages for insured work have a right to unemployment benefits when they meet the eligibility requirements provided in the Illinois Unemployment Compensation Act; the law is not based on charity or need but is based solely on whether or not the person meets all its requirements. Responsibility for collecting benefits is entirely up to the worker.

Certain types of work are not insured in Illinois under the Unemployment Compensation Act. No worker pays any part of his wages

either directly or indirectly into the unemployment compensation fund. Benefit payments are based on wages paid to workers for insured work, and employers pay a percentage of their payrolls to the State of Illinois to provide funds with which to pay these benefits.

It is the duty of the person who is claiming unemployment compensation to report the name and address of his last employer, the date he last worked, the reason why he is unemployed, and to answer all pertinent questions on his claim, such as: reporting of all wages earned, answering questions regarding dependency, efforts to secure work, ability to work, or refusal of work.

If any question arises as to whether or not a claim should be allowed, it is the duty of the unemployment compensation office to gather all pertinent facts on the claim and to notify all interested parties in accordance with the law. If either the claimant or his employer should feel that the determination should be reviewed or changed in any way, there is an appeals procedure whereby each party has every opportunity to state his case until he is satisfied that the claim has been handled properly.

There are four groups of unemployment compensation personnel located in Mt. Vernon: First is the local office, whose duties are to take unemployment claims for the four counties mentioned. Second is the appeals section, who have the duty of considering those contested claims which either the claimant or the employer feel should be further reviewed and of deciding whether or not the original determination should be changed, modified or affirmed. Third is the special investigations deupty, whose duty is to check unemployment claims and the records of employers to see whether fraud has been committed or attempted. Fourth is the field auditor, whose duty it is to check with employers in regard to payment of unemployment compensation taxes and the proper reporting and recording of payments. Until 1960, there was a fifth office, that of the area supervisor who was responsible for supervision of the local offices of Southern Illinois. After the death of Mr. Charles S. Green, who had been area supervisor for many years, the area office was moved to Murphysboro.

Certified employees who have worked in the Mt. Vernon office of the Division of Unemployment Compensation include: Odell E. Bain,

claims examiner; Inez Blankenship (now secretary in the office of the area supervisor at Murphysboro, Illinois); Durward L. Book, now manager of the unemployment compensation office at Granite City, Illinois; Edith Louise Burns, claims examiner; Vern L. Cravens, now manager of the unemployment office at Cairo, Illinois; Robert Donahue, claims supervisor; Vera B. Drennan, deputy; Lee Dunn, stenographer; Edward S. Edwards, claims examiner; Charles W. Flinn, referee; Barbara Foster, secretary to the referee, Doris Golightly, claims examiner; Howard Golightly, special investigations deputy; Charles S. Green (now deceased), area supervisor; Hugh C. Green (now deceased), claims examiner, deputy; Glenna Gregory, secretary; Wilma Jean Gutzler, typist; Margaret Hagebush, claims examiner (now a member of the unemployment compensation staff at Centralia, Illinois); R. Victor Hagestad, auditor; Kathryn Hawkins, secretary; Oliver N. Heischman, now manager of the unemployment compensation office at Jacksonville, Illinois; Owen D. Herbert, Jr., unemployment compensation office manager; Gertrude (Pepple) Hirons, now claims supervisor at the Centralia, Illinois, unemployment compensation office; Deloris Howard, claims examiner; Joseph B. Johnson, deputy (now retired); Jewell Lampley, deputy; Rose McDaniel, claims supervisor; Jane McMullen, secretary to the referee; Charles C. Potts, claims examiner; Rose Ann Shane, secretary; Merle R. Tate, claims examiner; Elizabeth Taylor, secretary; Lois I. Tolley, claims examiner; and Rosalyn Wilson, secretary.

UNION CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

Union Chapel Methodist Church, Texico, Illinois, is located on the Tolle Road in Field Township, Jefferson County, Illinois.

A revival was held in a brush shed in 1884, and as a result Union Chapel, Rome Circuit, Illinois Conference, Salem District, was organized that year under the administration of C. M. Whitson.

The church was built in 1885 and was dedicated by Preacher Owl and wife. The land was donated by W. J. Garrison. The carpenter was Ben F. Woodward, Sr., and all work was donated.

Some of the names of the organizers and first members are: C. M. Whitson and wife Catherine; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Shafer; Mr. and

Mrs. T. J. Garrison; Mr. and Mrs. Cam Frost; Mr. and Mrs. James Brown; Richard Raynor, SR. and Richard Raynor, JR; Mr. and Mrs. George Blosser; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Frost; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Woodward; Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Kimberly; Mrs. Micah Parker; Mr. and Mrs. John Whitson; Mrs. Mary A. Price; Frank Green, Sr.; James A. Green; Carrie Raynor Miller; Jane McConel; Almeda Hutchison; Mr. and Mrs. John Barker; George McKinney; and Susan Donoho.

In 1912 the church building was remodeled. Monroe Tate was the carpenter in charge, and plans were drawn by John Whitson.

In 1952 "Old Settlers' Day" was the homecoming theme. Pictures of earliest members were on display.

From 1884 to 1939, Union Chapel was in the Methodist Church South District of Illinois, transferring to Southern Illinois Methodist Conference following the nation-wide Methodist merger.

The membership roll from 1884 to 1962 contains 473 names of members who at some time have belonged to this church. When the list was revised, the complete roll was transferred to the new book--the earliest members heading the list. At the present time the active list contains 130 names.

Union Chapel is one of five churches in Field Township -- Panther Fork Baptist, organized in 1866, moved to present location in 1894; Oak Grove Baptist, 1870, rebuilt on the present location in 1959; Zion Methodist, 1866; Antioch Christian, 1883; and Union Chapel Methodist South, 1884.

Union Chapel pastors include: C. M. Whitson (1884), A. A. Awl;(1885); William H. Cunningham (1892-93); John E. Garrett (1893); R. B. Campbell (1894); J. M. Nesbit (1895); J. R. Haun (1896); R. B. Campbell (1897); A. C. Clendenning (1898); J. M. Smith (1899-1900); D. J. Ashley (1901); J. D. R. Brown (1902); J. B. New (one quarter 1905); J. J. Willis (balance of 1905-1908); J. B. H. McCartney (1908-1909); Trinstel (1910); Pitman (1910); Joseph Lane (1912-1913); L. B. Thurman (1913); George S. Conant (1914-1915); Roswell L. Phillips (1916);Hicks (1917-1918); Roy Tate (1919); R. H. Phillips (1920-1921); J. H. Byard (1922-1924); J. E. Garrett (1925-1927); F. M. McKinney (1928-1929); G. C. Moorehead (1930); F. M. McKinney (1931-1932); A. E. Thomas (1932-1935); J. T. Smith (1936-1937); (1938); J. E. Meredith (1938-1939);

Paul E. Ott (1939-1941); Joseph Harris (1942-1945); Earle Harmon (1946); L. E. Hard (1947-1948); Raymond Switzer (1948-1950); Leo Rabny (1950-1952)(Oct. '53); James Corbitt (Oct. 1953-May 1955); Harry Fish (1955-1956); R. E. Willis (1957); James Jeffries (1958); Gary Jenkins (1959-1960); Robert Harmon (1961); Rosemary Harris (1962).

-- By Veda Price Parker
(Mrs. Sidney Parker)

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

In 1893 the Union Street Methodist Church, now the Wesley Methodist Church, was organized and built on the corner of Union and Prairie Avenue. Union Street was later named Tenth Street.

This church was the outgrowth of the missionary spirit and enterprise of some of the members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Mt. Vernon. Several members of the First Methodist Church gave their time, prayers, effort, money and full support with their personal membership to help this work on to success. Many could be named who helped in this movement, but one who is worthy of special mention is W. F. Daniel, the father of Mrs. Sam Grant and Mrs. William Minor of Mt. Vernon. Rev. Daniel was a local elder and one of the prime movers in this church enterprise.

Rev. J. B. Crowder, a local preacher and father of Aubrey Crowder of Mt. Vernon, had the privilege, honor and responsibility of being the first pastor and director of the church building. At this time there were twenty-four probationers and fifty members. These were days of testing and tribulation for both pastor and people, but they had the faith that they would succeed. The foundation was well laid.

In 1894 Rev. J. B. Crowder was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Webster, who was appointed by the conference. The church was glad for his coming and he soon developed into a great preacher. His pastorate was an active and crowded one and a commendable success.

Rev. Charles O. McCammeron was appointed in 1897 and served five years. During his term a parsonage was purchased at a very reasonable price, which was fortunate because of the limited means of the church at that time.

The site on which the church and parsonage stood was sold to the Mt. Vernon Car Manufacturing Company in July, 1909, for the purpose of erecting the Steel Car Plant. The church received $2,500 for the property. The present site at Twelfth and Prairie, where the church now stands, was purchased for $1,500 from Mr. John Nesmith. The church and parsonage were moved from Union and Prairie to the new location.

After settling on the new site in 1909 and beginning the regular services the attendance and interest were very encouraging. This had been a year of financial embarrassment and contention, but a great revival prevailed through the month of January when the pastor was ably assisted by Rev. Charles Atchinson. A good work was done and the labors were greatly rewarded.

At the Adjourned Session of the Fourth Quarterly Conference held in Centralia, Illinois, by the request of the church the name Union Street Methodist was changed to "The Wesley Methodist Church."

The old church was remodeled and dedicated by Bishop Quail in 1913. Rev. J. C. Kinison was pastor at this time.

During the pastorate of the Rev. T. E. Harper, disaster struck on January 15, 1940 and the church building was destroyed by fire. During the reconstruction, services were held in the Garrison Warehouse on Tenth and Lamar. Through the efforts, hard work and cooperation of the members and friends, a new stone church was erected on the same location at Twelfth and Prairie. The dedication service was held on February 23, 1941, by Bishop Darlington.

Many of the members of Wesley Methodist Church have been called into full-time christian work. Since 1926, sixteen young ministers have gone out from the Wesley Methodist Church to preach the gospel.

Following are the names of the ministers who served the church from 1893 to the present time: J. B. Crowder (1893-1894), J. W. Webster (1894-1896), J. W. Smith (1896-1897), Chas. McCameron (1897-1902), W. B. Cooksey (1902-1903), J. D. Sheddrick (1902-1905), A. G. Proctor (1905-1908), B. A. Hoar (1908-1911), J. W. Britian (1911-1913), J. C. Kinison (1913-1915), Harry McKnight (1915-1917), C. B. Sullivan (1917-1918), George Wilson (1918-1919), W. H. McPherson (1919-1920), Ed Montgomery (1920-1923), Harold Culver (1923-1924), Earl Phillips (1923-1927), Clyde Bruce (1927-1928), Ernest Connett (1928-1933), Rodney Stockton (1933-1938), Thos. E. Harper (1938-1943), Earnest Lamb (1943-1947), O. E. Connett (1947-1951), E. C. Michels (1951-1954), Gerald Gulley (1954-1959), A. B. Clodfelder (1959-).

WALTONVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

The first religious denomination in Jefferson County was Methodism. Several of the earliest settlers were Methodist preachers, among whom were Zadok Casey (who became lieutenant governor of Illinois), Edward Maxey and Lewis Johnson. The first sermon delivered in Jefferson County was preached by Zadok Casey in the autumn of 1817 in Isaac Hicks' newly erected cabin with every man, woman and child residing within the present limits of the county in attendance. In the spring of 1819 the Methodists organized the county's first church society. This meeting was held at Edward Maxey's cabin in what is now Shiloh Township.

Proceeding to the southwestern section of the county, we find that here, too, the earliest settlers bore the torchlight of Methodism. Many pioneers had been active church members before coming to the Illinois country and were eager on organize new religious societies. Meetings were held in homes, and during the summer they met in groves until the erection of school houses when these buildings were utilized for religious worship. The first church in Blissville Township was Grand Arm on Minson Methodist Church, erected in 1837. In Bald Hill Township the first church was the Bald Hill Methodist Church, often called Immanuel Chapel. In Elk Prairie Township the first Methodist church was built in Dareville. Pioneer Methodist preachers in this area included Revs. Simeon Walker, T. W. Williams, James Johnson, Files and J. Barnes.

From about 1857 until late 1870, Methodist services were held fairly regularly in the home of Jacob R. Watkins and wife north of Williamsburg. At a Methodist camp meeting held soon after the close of the Civil War in Robinson's Grove near Woodlawn, the Watkins' son, Thomas C., was converted. Shortly thereafter, members of the Watkins family and other persons of the Methodist faith residing in and near Williamsburg determined to erect a house of worship. The first timbers for the new church were cut by Orange Hamilton. The task of building accomplished, the dedication service was held on Christmas Day, 1870, with Bishop Matthew Simpson, assisted by the Rev. Thomas C. Watkins, officiating.

The lot upon which the church was erected had been purchased from Dr. T. B. Moore for the sum of fifty dollars and was conveyed to the following persons as trustees: John H. Moore, Capt. Joseph Laur, Ransom Boswell, Josiah Tuttle and Jacob R. Watkins. The bible used in the dedicatory service was a gift of Dr. Moore's wife, Mrs. Phoebe Bolen Moore, and the same holy book is still used in the Waltonville Methodist Church. Others who were active in the early history of the church were Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Quinn, Mr. Palmer, David and Elizabeth Hicks, Oliver and Mary Dickerman, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Parlier, and Anna Gilbert. A Sunday School was organized, and a well-preserved copy of the Sunday School minutes, dating back to January 29, 1871, still exists.

In 1883 the church was in a flourishing condition with a membership of about forty. The Rev. Edmund Root was pastor. Other ministers of the period included the Revs. J. W. McIntosh, T. C. Lopas, Gifford, Eugene May and Capt. Benson Logan.

During the late 1880's there was a period of lethargy when the church may be said to have fallen into a state of suspended animation.

In 1890 the Rev. J. C. Kinison, at that time pastor of the DuQuoin Methodist Circuit, passed through Williamsburg. Upon learning that regular services no longer were conducted at the church, the Rev. Kinison arranged to return and hold services. His excellent sermons aroused much interest, and a little later the Rev. J. D. Crenshaw came and assisted in the reorganization of the church. The only former members residing in the community at the time of reorganization were Anna Gilbert, Laura Baldridge and Mary Daniel. Henry Tuttle, who, prior to coming to Illinois, had been active in the Methodist church in Guernsey County, Ohio, Ida E. Newell and Hattie B. Hicks were the first three members received after reorganization. The Rev. C. J. Pressley was appointed pastor and several persons united with the church.

About this time the village of Waltonville was founded. The Rev. G. Groves, who succeeded the Rev. Pressley, conducted a series of meetings in the school house which resulted in conversions and accessions to the church. He was assisted by his brother-in-law, the

Rev. B. S. Smith of Anna, said to have been one of the most eloquent and successful ministers ever heard in Waltonville.

Meanwhile, a new parsonage had been erected in Waltonville, and interest was sufficient to warrant the removal of the church from Williamsburg to Waltonville. In February, 1895, two adjoining lots, Numbers 4 and 5, were deeded to the trustees of the church by Alvin Gilbert, R. W. Mannen and S. S. Mannen in compliance with these gentlemen's offer to donate the lots to the first congregation that would locate a house of worship in the new town. The trustees were Ichabod Newell, George Baldridge, Dr. J. W. Jeffries, Charles T. Sawyer, Alvin Gilbert, Anna Gilbert, Nettie Parsley, Linnie Philp and Hattie Hicks.

The work of moving the building was completed in the autumn of 1895, and the church was dedicated in November of that year by Bishop Bowman. Many persons assisted in the arduous task of transporting the structure to the site the man portion now (1962) occupies. The uniting efforts and inspiration of Ichabod Newell and George Baldridge were especially noteworthy.

In 1929 the church was remodeled and a room was added. The stained glass windows were donated in memory of Jacob R. Watkins and Dr. J. W. Jeffries.

Realizing the need for a new parsonage, a meeting was called on March 13, 1950, by the pastor, the Rev. Jewel R. Johnson, to discuss the proposition. The decision was favorable and permission was granted by the district superintendent, the Rev. C. H. Todd, to sell the old parsonage and erect a new one west of the church. On May 15, 1950, the contract was let to Ervin P. Hays Construction Company of Nason, Illinois. The parsonage was completed and dedicated in the fall of 1950.

On May 15, 1954, with the cooperation of the pastor, Rev. Ewell Gully, plans were made to again remodel the church by, mainly, the addition of a basement. This contract was let to Stockton and Pierce, contractors of Sesser, Illinois. The basement was completed in the fall of 1954. Various projects were sponsored by the church members to help with the financial program. The men sowed forty-five acres of soybeans. Labor for the cultivation of the crop was donated by

members of the church and their friends. An auction sale of donated articles realized approximately $575.00. Voluntary donations took care of the remaining deficit.

The church is still in good condition inside and outside, maintains a good Sunday School with a regular pastor and preaching services every Sunday, serving the spiritual needs of Methodist people and their friends.

WEST SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

This church has played a long role in serving the spiritual needs of the Mt. Vernon community. From the time that the church was founded, it has been a church that practiced the faith that John Wesley introduced in the eighteenth century.

According to reports, this church was organized about 1851. As the West Salem Church was located in a rural area for many years, a short distance west from the city limits, a large proportion of the membership was composed of farm people.

The West Salem Cemetery is located adjoining the church building to the west, and many of the residents of earlier generations as well as those who have recently passed away are buried at this place. It is one of the most beautiful cemeteries in this area and is easily reached as it is near the city.

In some areas churches of various faiths are organized and function for a number of years, then for some reason are abandoned. This was not the case with the West Salem Church. This church has been a regular place of worship from the time of its founding. The founding fathers were firm in their faith, and this belief has been carried down to the present time.

As far as we have been able to ascertain, this church has always been on a Methodist Circuit. At the annual conference a minister would be assigned to serve this church and two or three others. (There may have been periods when the church had a minister full time.)

Like many other churches in the nineteenth century, this church was a combination of church and school. The first building was a log structure located in what is now the west part of the cemetery. As was the custom in those days, the first building was erected

in the center of the local burying ground. The land on which the first building was erected (now the present location of the cemetery) was deed to the church by John Rhodum Allen and his wife, Lucinda Allen. Rhodum Allen migrated to Illinois from another state, but it is now known to this Bureau from what state he came. Rhodum held a captain's commission during the Civil War.

The first names of this church and school were Salem School and Salem Church. As there is a Baptist church east of Mt. Vernon by the name of Salem, and as some people were confused as to which church was which, it was decided about 1915 to change the name to West Salem Methodist Church.

According to reports, the deed was made to "Salem Meeting House." The land where the present church building is located was deeded to the church by some members of the Bullock family. This land was deeded about 1871, approximately twenty years after the deed for the first plot of ground for this church was made. Tradition has it that a portion of the present church building was built in 1873, but as stated above this was not a portion of the original structure.

The names of ministers of this church prior to June, 1886, are not available, but we submit the names of ministers who have served this church since that date: W. A. Browder, A. D. Hooker, J. C. Kinison, P. J. Rhinehart, N. E. Smother, Rev. Cooksey, Marion Jackson, Charles Atchison, Samuel Albrecht, W. J. Hopper, M. S. Bumpus, L. R. Seymour, Charles Ramsden, Z. W. Story, Angus Phillips, Veto A. Venezia, Walter J. Leslie, Henry C. Ingram, J. L. Miller, W. E. Shaffer, A. B. Clodfelder, J. T. Smith, Orlando Brakemeyer, Earle Harmon, Cal Ryan, Paul E. Wartenbe, J. C. Harris, Alma McClain, Dennis D. Ramsey, Laurence A. Wagley.

During the conference year of 1917-1918, when the nation was engaged in "the conflict to end all wars," the West Salem Church launched a program for raising funds for benevolences. As livestock was plentiful in this rural area, the church decided on a plan of buying hogs and selling them for profit to raise their necessary funds. Similar plans have been used in other years to rise to meet necessities or to give to benevolent funds, and the people of the church always enjoy these projects.

In 1952 West Salem Church launched a building program. The building was remodeled and a new sanctuary was added. After having been remodeled completely, this church was one of the most beautiful buildings of its size for many miles around. The dedication services of the new sanctuary were held in June 1957 during the pastorate of the Rev. L. A. Wagley.

Unfortunately, the congregation did not get the use of the newly remodeled building for long. Fate struck a blow in July, 1959, when a disastrous fire was started and caused considerable damage to this well known place of worship. The building has now been repaired, however, and is indeed beautiful.

The West Salem Methodist Church stands as a landmark in the community where it has been serving the spiritual needs of its people for well over a century.

CURTIS WILLIAMS SPEAKS TO THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 3, 1946

Early Settlements

The first white people to travel the plains of Illinois were the French. Recorded history informs us that the first settlements made in the State were Fort Chartres, Kaskaskia and Cahokia. From the year 1680 until the close of the French and Indian War, Illinois (or rather the territory which was to become Illinois) was under the domination of the French.

It would be interesting to review in detail this phase of the settlement of the Northwest Territory, but for the purpose of our discussion we must confine our interest to a more limited territory and to a more recent time. It is necessary that we consider the early settlements of this immediate vicinity of Southern Illinois.

In 1808 or 1809 a settlement was made by Thomas and Francis Jordan in what is now Franklin County. This settlement was located approximately fifteen or twenty miles south of the present southern boundary of Jefferson County.

Then in 1810 one Andrew Moore came from the Goshen settlement and located in what is now Moore's Prairie, and his nearest

neighbors were the Jordans. Moore erected a double log cabin near a hickory grove on the Goshen Road and resided at this location until about 1812; some say until 1814 or 1815. This, however, was not as we might suppose the beginning of a prosperous community. Moore and his family were alone except for a few travelers along the Goshen Road on their way to the Saline for salt.

I believe that many of you know the story and mystery of the disappearance of Andrew Moore and his son. The first attempt at settlement of Jefferson County ended in failure.

The next effort following that of the Moores occurred about 1816 and again this settlement was in Moore's Prairie. At the close of 1816 the white population of the county consisted of approximately five families. Settlements immediately following those made in Moore's Prairie were made near what was to be the site of Mt. Vernon and were in the south part of what was then Edwards County. The northern limits of White County was then about four miles south of the later site of Mt. Vernon.

It would be interesting to give the names of these early settlers: the Milkey's, the Casey's, the Hicks' and others. It would also be interesting for us to consider the construction of the early homes, the trials and vicissitudes of those who wore the early buck-skin clothing "the trousers of which in the early morning, after one walked in the dew, became a foot too long and which same trousers were at high twelve a foot too short." But these things, however interesting they may be, are outside the scope of our present review and as we lawyers say sould if we discussed them be "obiter dicta."

Illinois was admitted as a territory February 3, 1809 and to the Union as the twenty-first state on December 3, 1818. Illinois, now a state with 102 counties, had a humble beginning as a governmental unit. It was a county of the State of Virginia. In October, 1778, the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act for "establishing the County of Illinois and for the more effectual protection and defense thereof." A clause of the act reade: "That all the citizens of this Commonwealth who are already settled or shall hereafter settle on the Western side of the Ohio and East of the Mississippi, shall be included in a distinct county, which shall be called Illinois County."

Patrick Henry was at this time Governor of Virginia, and he appointed John Todd the County Lieutenant Commandant of Illinois. The letter of appointment of Todd was dated December 12, 1778. This letter was given to a messenger and carried on foot across the mountains to Fort Pitt, thence down the Ohio, and it is supposed that it was delivered to Todd at Vincennes, then known as St. Vincent. The delivery was made soon after the surrender of Vincennes to Clark on the 24th of February, 1779. Todd held the position of County Lieutenant Commandant of Illinois until the time of his death at Blue Licks, Kentucky, on August 18, 1782.

Upon the organization of the Northwest Territory, General Arthur St. Clair was appointed governor. In the spring of 1790, in the company of the Territorial Judges, he went to Cahokia and by proclamation organized the County of St. Clair, the first county of the state. Its seat of justice was at Kaskaskia. Randolph County was formed in 1795. At the 1811/1812 session of the Territorial Legislature, Madison, Gallatin and Johnson Counties were organized. Edwards County followed in 1814; and in 1816 White, Jackson, Monroe, Pope and Crawford were formed. At the last session of the Territorial Legislature Franklin, Washington, Union, Bond and Wayne Counties came into existence.

At the first session of the legislature after Illinois was admitted into the union, Jefferson County was formed. The act authorizing its formation was approved March 26, 1819. The act provided that this county was to be formed from Edwards and White Counties.

We should note some of the provisions of the act authorizing the formation of Jefferson County: (1) It was enacted that the name of the county should be "Jefferson." (2) The boundaries of the county were established. (3) It appointed Ambrose Maulding, Lewis Barker, Robert Shipley, James A. Richardson and Richard Graham as commissioners for the purpose of selecting and establishing a seat of justice for the county. (4) It was provided that the proprietor of the land selected should give the land to the county in order that it could be laid out in lots and sold and the proceeds used for the erection of public buildings. (5) It provided that the Commissioners' Court, until the erection of public buildings, should be held in the house of William Casey.

An election was held in the house of William Casey in pursuance of the act. This house stood on the lot where a few years ago Taylor's Commercial Hotel was located. To further identify the location, the house stood at the site of our Post Office at the southwest corner of Eleventh and Main Streets. About thirty or forty votes were cast at this election. Joseph Jordan, Zadok Casey and Flemming Greenwood were elected commissioners, with Lewis Watkins become sheriff. The commissioners met on Monday, June 7, 1819, for the purpose of organizing the county court. The matter of the seat of justice was taken up at the meeting, and the report of the commissioners was to the effect that Lewis Barker, Ambrose Maulding and James A. Richardson met and after being duly sworn determined and fixed upon a location for the seat of justice. Their selection was: "A part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 29, Range 3, of Township 2, on the land owned by William Casey, the town to be laid off in the Southwest corner of said quarter, to commence near the timber, on a point not far distant from Casey's house, and thence to the foot of the descent on a point on which Casey's house stood."

You recall that the act provided that a gift of twenty acres was to be made, which was to be laid out in lots and the lots sold so that funds might be obtained for the erection of public buildings. In compliance with this part of the act the report of the commissioners was accompanied by a paper which stated that William Casey on the 12th day of May, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Nineteen had appeared before the subscribed and had made a donation of twenty acres of land, to be laid off in town lots and sold for the purpose of paying for public building in the County of Jefferson, and that the land should be laid off by the County Commissioners, which was all to be done in accordance with an act of the Legislature for the purpose of fixing a seat of justice for the county.

There was naturally some little dissatisfaction with the selection that was made. It was said that Lewis Barker, one of the commissioners, was the father-in-law of William Casey; and it was, of course, hinted that it was through his influence that the site was selected. We are not vouching for the truth of this, but at least it

indicates that public matters were probably discussed in the early day much as they are today.

We do not have the time to discuss all the acts that were done once the county court was organized, neither would such a discussion be profitable, but we might stop to note what was done in the way of furnishing the county with its first court house and some other public structures. It was resolved that a court house should be built at the first term of the County Commissioners Court. The building was to be of hewn logs with dimensions of eighteen by thirty feet. Also, a stray pound was ordered to be built in 1820, as was a jail.

It might be interesting to consider what the population of the county has been at various times in the past: in 1820 it was 691; in 1830 -- 2,555; 1840 -- 5,672; 1850 -- 8,107; 1860 -- 12,965; 1870 -- 17,864; and in 1880 -- 20,686. You may carry on your own research from 1880.

The court, as we have seen, ordered Mt. Vernon to be laid off in lots, so that the lots could be sold and public buildings erected. This order provided that Joel Pace contract with a surveyor to lay off the town in lots; that the sale of lots should commence on the third Monday of September, 1819; that an advertisement be inserted in the Illinois Emigrant for three weeks previous of the commencement of the said sale and that fifty copies of the advertisement be struck off as handbills and be distributed in the county. The last part of this order is the most interesting part: "And it is further ordered that the town be called Mt. Vernon."

We should note that the name "Mount Pleasant" was the name first proposed for the new town, and it almost was accepted. It is thought that the name Mt. Vernon was finally selected because of Washington's popularity among the people of the county.

The original survey was made by a man by the name of William Mosick, who had but one arm and was a resident of Shawneetown. The town, of course, included but the twenty acres that were required by the act forming the county. The boundaries of the town were: Harrison Street on the north, Jordan Street on the South, Casey Street on the west (Casey then being the present Eleventh Street), and Johnson Alley was the eastern boundary. Forty-eight lots were laid off in the

original survey. At the sale, Lot #1 was sold for $41.00 and the others were sold for varying prices ranging up to $165.00. Sometime subsequent to the original sale, when the interest had died down and a few purchasers had failed to meet the terms of their purchases, the value of real estate in Mt. Vernon declined somewhat.

We have seen that the purpose of the sale was to raise money for the erection of the necessary public buildings. Up to this time the court had been meeting in the various private homes in our community. So it was ordered that a court house be constructed.

I think that the original order tells us more about the building than my own words would do, and that it also gives us an idea of how the early inhabitants of this county went about getting things accomplished:

> "Ordered, that the building of a court house be let to the lowest bidder on Friday the 24th inst. to be eighteen by thirty feet, thirteen feet high; to be built of hewed logs that will face from ten to twelve inches, closely notched down; to have a good roof made of boards; also a good under floor made of plank, rough, and closely laid; and joist plates, with holes cut for joists; that the house to have one door and one window, cut and faced, and to them good shutters hung, made of rough plank; the house and all work about it done in a workman-like manner, completed and delivered to the County Commissioners' Court at their next September term, subject to the inspection of the County Commissioners, said house to be built in the public square, or on the spot said Commissioners shall designate. The timber to be furnished by Isaac Casey, William Casey and Joseph Jordan. The building to said house to be paid for out of any money that may be in the treasury not otherwise appropriated."

John Sanders undertook the original contract for the sum of $85.00, and the building was finished according to schedule. As winter came on it was found to be rather uncomfortable, and it was arranged that a good chimney, back and hearth were to be built and the cracks were to be closely chinked inside and well daubed outside with well wrought mortar. Other changes were also to be made in the building. Oliver Morris undertook to do the remodeling for the sum of $80.00, but when the commissioners examined the work they were dissatisfied and deducted $5.00 from the amount. So we find the first court house as an asset to the community in every respect, for the total expenditure of $160.00.

Following the court house, a stray pound and a jail were constructed; and these were followed in 1820 by a Clerk's Office.

At this time, outside of the court house there was little in the county in the way of internal improvements. It may be that in Roman times all roads led to Rome, but early Mt. Vernon could boast of nothing of the sort. In fact, it seemed that all roads led to some other place. The first road was the old Goshen Road, and it ran about four miles south and east of Mt. Vernon. There were a few trails, but not even a trail led here.

In 1819 and 1820 various persons were appointed to view and lay out necessary roads for the town, but nothing came of the attempts until about 1821 when the Saline and Walnut Hill Road was laid out. It was to be eighteen feet in width. The road crosses no stream requiring a bridge except for Casey's Fork on the Muddy. This bridge was constructed by Ben Hood and Carter Wilkey at a cost of $44.15. Hood and Wilkey sawed the lumber by hand. Following this, provisions were made for the Vandalia Road, then the Frankfort Road, the Richview Road, the Nashville Road, the Fairfield Road and the Brownsville and Pinckneyville Roads. This brings us up to about 1844 in regard to the construction of roads in Jefferson County.

The inhabitants were also advancing in the field of education at this early period. It is believed that the first school ever taught in Jefferson County was taught in 1820 by Joel Pace, in a floorless cabin without ceiling or windows. The pupils were probably the children of William Maxey, John and Henry Wilkerson, Isaac Casey, and James and Lewis Johnson.

The second school in Jefferson County was probably taught at Old Shiloh by James Douglas; and the third by Emory P. Moore at Union in 1821, with W. L. Howell teaching this same school in 1822.

We have considered something of the history of the first court house. In 1821 it was decided that a new court house was needed in the community. The walls were to be built of brick, twenty by thirty feet, two stories high; the first story to be nine feet and the second seven and a half, two sets of joists were to be put in. The building was to have nine sixteen-light window frames below and eight twelve-light window frames above, two door frames, four fireplaces; and

the building was to have a good firm brick floor, and well covered with good oak shingles without sap, the brick and timber to be of the best quality, and the whole thing was to be completed by the December term. Actually, the building was not completed until 1829. A man by the name of McBride at first undertook the job and later gave it to Thomas Jordan. McBride received $300.00, Jordan $202.00, and a man by the name of Tunstall $110.00; and later in 1829 when the building was finally completed and remodeled, $89.00 was spent for construction and $79.93 for painting.

The first term of the circuit court held in this county was convened on the 8th day of October, A. D. 1819, with William Wilson as judge. It is said that the grand jury retired to the woods north of the public square and returned with two indictments, both for assault and battery. One indictment was against the sheriff, who it is reported pleaded guilty and a fine of $2.00 was assessed. The county at this time was without a jail, and the jails of White and Washington counties were used.

To continue with the history of the court houses of Jefferson County: it is said that one morning in 1839 the town awoke and found that the court house of 1821 had fallen down and that there was a hole in one side large enough to drive through with a wagon. The town accepted this fact in good spirits. Every one equipped himself with a rope and razed the building by pulling down the walls, to the accompaniment of much dust, noise and fun.

Various court houses in the surrounding counties were examined in order to determine the type of building Jefferson County desired. In spite of all the improvements and changes that have been made, it appears that in some respects things and people do not change so much after all. This same viewing of court houses of the surrounding counties was carried on in 1938-39, when our present court house was being contemplated.

In 1841, Jefferson County had another new court house. It had been ordered that the clerk advertise in the "Western Voice" at Shawneetown and the "State Register" at Vandalia that the court would at the next June term receive sealed proposals for the building of a brick court house on the public square in Mt. Vernon, and that a

committee was selected to superintend the advertising, planning and building of the house, subject at all times to the direction of the court and liable to be removed by the court. It was also advertised that the bids would be let on the 20th of July for the building of a court house in Mt. Vernon on the plan of the court house at Carmi, Illinois. The building was to be of the same size and finish. William Edwards received the contract for $5500.00.

We found that this court house was forty feet square, square roof, cupola supported by pillars and surrounded by a railing, court room below, judge's seat on the north side, stairways in the southwest and southeast corners, with four rooms above for offices. The front door was on the south and plain doors on the east and west. There was more care exercised concerning the doors of this court house than there had been for the previous buildings. It is said that cattle and sheep used the old court house during vacations, but the people had outgrown this and through the efforts of a Dr. W. S. VanCleve, the public square was fenced and the weeds and bushes cut. The new building was completed in 1840, and one of the good things about it was that final settlement and payment were made in October, 1841.

The first indictment for murder in Jefferson County was returned at the April term in 1841 against Rollin Bradley, charging him with killing and murdering one Elijah P. King. We will not go into the facts, but Bradley was found guilty. Judge Scates, later on the Supreme Bench of Illinois, was the presiding circuit judge. Bradley was sentenced to be hung on the third day of January, 1842, between the hours of 12:00 and 2:00 o'clock. A gallows was erected and a large crowd was said to have been present. However, Bradley was not without friends, and these went to Springfield and a pardon was obtained. His friends returned with the pardon, as is done in the best movie technique of today, just in the nick of time and just in time to disappoint one of the largest crowds that up to that time had ever assembled in the county.

I believe at this time, just for the sake of the record, we should bring the matter of the county court houses of Jefferson County up to date. The court house of 1840-41 served until about 1863 or 1870, during William Coffee's term as sheriff, when there was a fire.

So following this, Jefferson County had another court house which was remodeled in 1888 after the cyclone. This remodeled building fulfilled the needs of the county until 1939 when our present court house was constructed for about $300,000, a building of which we can be justly proud. Remember the first court house of the county was built and remodeled for $160.00. The cost of living and of court houses has come up to some extent.

We must of necessity do some skipping about in a historical review of this type. We have been considering some of the activities which were taking place in the town and township of Mt. Vernon. Let us change the scene and note a few of the developments in a part of the other townships of the county.

Jefferson County is divided into sixteen townships and adopted township organization in 1869. The first township officers were elected in 1870. Time will not permit us to discuss each individual township; however, I shall devote a few moments to the more well-known ones, especially those which contain the more interesting villages from a historic viewpoint.

Mention has been made of the early settlement of Moore's Prairie and we know that it received its name from Andrew Moore, its first settler.

Shiloh Township, save Moore's Prairie and the vicinity immediately surrounding Mt. Vernon, was the first to attract early settlers. Zadok Casey is credited with being the first white inhabitant and was followed by Governor Casey in 1817 and William Maxey in 1818, who constructed the first mill. Abner Hill kept a distillery in the northeast part of the township and, as has been before mentioned, this township had one of the first schools in the county.

Woodlawn is in Shiloh Township and was laid out by John D. Williams for S. R. Casey and W. D. Green, October 1, 1869. The first house in the village was built by Hiram Ferguson. James Farmer erected the first mill in 1872, and a man by the name of Hicks had established a drug store in 1870. A Methodist Church was built in the village in 1879 for $1200.00.

Pendleton and Moore's Prairie Townships are closely connected and at one time comprised Moore's Prairie Precinct. The first

village of Pendleton Township was Lynchburg. How many of you have ever heard of it? This village was laid out in 1852 and 1853 by W. H. Lynch and originally consisted of four blocks of eight lots each. Lynchburg was no more than well started when the march of progress sealed its fate, as well as that of other communities in the county. Progress in this instance was in the form of the railroad. When the St. Louis and Southeastern Railroad was built and passed Lynchburg by "on the other side" Lynchburg was doomed, but with the railroad came Opdyke and Belle Rive.

Belle Rive was established in Pendleton Township in 1871. The original plat was of sixty-seven blocks and, being a new railroad town, it improved rapidly. As we mentioned above, this improvement was to some extent at the expense of the less fortunate villages of the county. A Christian Church was organized in 1873-74, and a Masonic Lodge in 1871.

Belle Rive was laid out on April 1, 1871, and Opdyke soon followed, being laid out in the same year on April 14. Opdyke was, of course, also a direct result of the railroad development. The Methodist Church was established in 1872, and a Masonic Lodge originally organized in Lynchburg was moved to Opdyke in 1876.

In the year of 1816 or 1817, William Maxwell came from Bourbon, Kentucky, and settled in Rome Township and his sone Robert and Archibald soon followed. It is interesting to notice that Robert entered the first tract of land in Jefferson County and paid for it in cash.

One of the first taverns of Jefferson County was located in this township, operated by William Goins. Legend has it that this was the meeting place of lawless characters, horse thieves, counterfeiters and even murderers; but whether true or not, we know that the tavern was soon out of business and the township settled by progressive citizens.

The village of Rome was not settled on seven hills, but it was an early community of this county, having been laid out on March 14, 1849, by Anba Andrews, and the survey was made by L. F. Casey. Originally, there were four blocks, each one having five lots. The first structure was erected for John Bostwick for a grocery, but most

of the stock would have been difficult to distinguish from that of a saloon. Andrew Harmon erected the second building for use as a hotel.

The town was probably named for Rome, New York, as Mr. Andrews, one of the early settlers of the community, came from that place. A post office had been established at Mr. Andrews' home in 1830 and was designated as Jordan Prairie Post Office. This post office was moved to Rome when the town was established; and then it was discovered that there was another post office in the state by that name, so another name had to be selected. It is said that Dr. Jones named the post office for General Dix. Thus we have the name by which we know the community.

We will now consider one of the most important townships, if not the most important one -- Spring Garden. You who know something of my background will understand my placing Spring Garden in this position of prominence. (EDITORIAL NOTE: Mr. Williams grew up in the Spring Garden community.) At least, I am on a firm ground when I say that it had the greatest population of any township in the county, with the exception of Mt. Vernon.

In preparing this paper I read where Spring Garden Township is situated in the southern tip of townships of the county and "is as fine a body of land as lies out of doors." This statement takes in quite a little territory, as it has been my observation that most land does lie out of doors as this particular author put it.

It is believed that the very first settlers of Spring Garden Township were the Smiths and the Hoppers, who came around 1816. But of more interest is the fact that Uriah Compton early settled at the springs called Compton Springs and from these the township received its name. Compton improved the springs and made them quite a resort for his day.

Perhaps we should have discussed the village of Spring Garden first among the villages of the county, as it was laid out by L. F. Casey, October 24, 1848. J. T. Creek erected a house and was in business in 1847, a year before the village was laid out.

James M. Williams built the first hotel, having traded for the land from Creek, and in 1859 and 1860 he built a brick hotel. Joseph Williams built a house in 1853 and was in business with his brother, Henry.

One of the first steam mills in the county was constructed by Driver & Pollock in Spring Garden, and it is related that soon after the mill was completed that there was quite a celebration among the residents; that the miller crowded on steam until the mill stones flew into fragments, bringing the celebration to an abrupt halt. Later this mill was out of operation and Harry Williams built a new mill a short distance from the town.

The village of Spring Garden had the first Township High School in Jefferson County, and this was probably the first Township High School in Southern Illinois. I attended this school in the school years of 1888-1889. Mr. J. T. Whitlock, later a resident and practising physician in this city, was the teacher.

We have seen how the coming of the railroad destroyed Lynchburg, and to a great extent Spring Garden suffered the same fate. First the building of the St. Louis and Southeastern Railroad caused people to move to Opdyke and Belle Rive; and later, when the Chicago and Eastern Illinois was constructed, Bonnie and Ina came into existence. While the coming of the railroad did not guarantee a brilliant future for these towns, it made certain that progress had ended for Spring Garden, even though it was by far the most active of the communities in the county outside of Mt. Vernon.

The early history of Elk Prairie Township was similar to that of the county generally. The village of Winfield in this township was laid out by A. M. Grant for J. J. Fitzgerrell, the owner of the land, on March 26, 1860. The survey took in four blocks of four lots each. The first store was operated by Isaac Boswell. Later, stores were opened by Mr. Graham and Mr. Yard. A mill was built and subsequently improved. Dr. Gee moved to the village in 1867 and Dr. White was also a resident. About 1880 it was said that the village was located in a good farming area and that it should grow and prosper. However, we now know that in addition to this there were other factors which controlled the growth of communities in this county.

The settlement of Blissville Township dates back to 1822 and 1823. Among the early settlers in this township were Jesse Dees, Joseph Laird, David Fairchild, Eli Gilbert, Isaac and Sidney Place and others whom we do not have time to mention. The township was named in honor

of August Bliss, who settled in Casner Township. He made an early attempt to lay off a village, which was never improved; Mr. Bliss died on his way to California during the gold rush days.

The principal community of Blissville Township and of several others in that section of the county was Williamsberg. It is situated in Knob Prairie on the northeast quarter of Section 35. Drs. Moore and Peavler laid off the village on December 17, 1867. It consisted of four blocks with a total of forty-three lots. The first stone building was erected by John Hagle and the first residence by David Hicks.

It is difficult for us to realize at the present time the activity which once existed in these early communities. Hicks' son ran a drug store. Brick buildings were erected by Henry Willis. A good mill was built, which changed hands often and finally came into the possession of John Dare. There were several general stores and later a second drug store operated by J. W. Robinson. The community was Williamsberg, but the post office carried the name of Laur.

All the townships could not be discussed and neither could all the villages, but I have mentioned those townships and villages which I felt held the greatest interest from a historical point of view.

The history of Jefferson County and Mt. Vernon is closely connected with the history of the courts of this state. It is more closely connected than that of many counties and towns, as Jefferson County and Mt. Vernon both have an important place in the judicial background of the state.

The Supreme Court of the State of Illinois first met in Mt. Vernon in 1848. The state constitution of 1848 divided the state into three grand divisions. Each division elected one judge. This county was in the first division. After quite a struggle Mt. Vernon was selected as the seat of the first division. At that early day there appeared to be the same rivalry over the location of important institutions and functions, which rivalry is not entirely unknown at this time.

The first term of the State Supreme Court held here convened in December, 1848. I believe that there were seventeen cases on the docket. Jefferson County furnished one of these. This was the case of

William B. Thorn vs. Joel F. Watson, Administrator of the Estate of James Ham. Thorn had a claim against the estate which the administrator contended had been filed too late and was thus barred by the statute. The lower court held for the administrator and this decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court.

In 1854 an appropriation was obtained from the legislature for the purpose of the construction of a court house, now the Appellate Court Building at 14th and Main Streets, Mt. Vernon. This appropriation was for the sum of $6000.00. T. B. Tanner, Maj. Johnston, Zadok Casey, William J. Stephens and Dr. John N. Johnson were appointed as commissioners to superintend the construction. It was found that the sum was insufficient, but parties in St. Louis were located who agreed to at least inclose the building for the $600.00. Tanner was in 1854 elected to the legislature and obtained an additional appropriation of $10,000, and with this amount the building was completed according to the original design.

By the constitution of 1870, the Judicial Department of the state was reorganized. The three grand divisions were retained, but the number of judges increased from three to seven. The state was divided into seven districts and one judge elected from each division or district. For a number of years the supreme court has met only at Springfield, Illinois. The Mt. Vernon building then became the Appellate Court House that we all know.

In 1874 another appropriation was obtained for the purpose of remodeling the building, and the north and south wings were added.

The Appellate Court was the next court organized to handle the legal business of the state. The constitution of 1870 provided for the creation of the appellate courts, and in 1877 the legislature created the four appellate courts. The judges of the appellate courts were to be assigned by the Supreme Court from the circuit courts of the state, each court to consist of three judges thus assigned. This is the method by which the judges of the court are assigned. Jefferson County was by this act in the Fourth District, as it is today. One of the first judges of the appellate court for this district was Taswell B. Tanner, and with him James C. Allen and George N. Hall were assigned to duty in the Fourth District. Judge Tanner became the first presiding justice.

Let us return to the development of Mt. Vernon. You will recall that we mentioned that the original survey of the town of Mt. Vernon was made by William Hosick. This survey was dated July 10, 1819. Of his beginning and first line Mr. Hosick said the following:

> "The public square beginning at the Northwest corner at a mulberry stake, running thence thirteen degrees east, agreeably to the magnetical direction run by a compass made by Thomas Whitney of Philadelphia, No. 479 and thence thirteen polls to another stake of the same description."

This probably accounts for the fact that our corners are not right angles.

In 1824 William Casey sold ninety rods off the west side of the southwest quarter of Section 29 to James Gray for the sum of $1000. Mt. Vernon was right in the heart of this tract, a fact which the conveyance seems to overlook.

Gray sold a lot to the Methodist Church in September of 1835 and sold various other lots and parts of ground to others around the town, some of the sales being laid out in additions. The village trustees, wishing to see the town prosper, procured and employed one John Storms, County Surveyor of White County, to come up and survey the town. Storms' survey was to include all the tracts which Gray had sold and the land he had left. You can see that the situation was such that it was felt that a survey might clarify the situation and be helpful to the future growth of the town; and it was, even though it is suspected that Storms' chain was a bit too long.

There were no blocks in the tract, so Storms was free to number his blocks to suit himself; but whereever lots were numbered, the numbers had to be adhered to. This perhaps explains why the numbers run rather irregularly in some parts of town.

The plat of this survey is dated September, 1840. The key corner stone was set at the southwest corner of Section 29, and the variation maintained six degrees. The blocks ran from #1 in the southwest corner to #35 in the northeast. Block 24 and several others in the north and east were not lotted. They were so far from town and so badly in the woods that it was felt that dividing them into lots would be overdoing it a bit. Perhaps they were in those days not sufficiently far sighted to advertise these lots as a beautiful suburban area; or on the other hand, perhaps they were so advertised and

sold. The survey and field notes fill thirty pages of the record and J. R. Satterfield, Recorder, certified that they were recorded from the 1st to the 27th of September, 1845.

Strangely enough, of all the parties interested in this survey not a man but James Gray acknowledge the act. This raised grave doubts of the legality of the whole affair, so an act of the legislature was procured and approved February 21, 1843, declaring:

> "That the survey of the town of Mt. Vernon in Jefferson County, made by John Storms in the year 1840, and the plats and profiles made by him of said survey, are hereby legalized and shall be taken and received in all courts as prima facia evidence of the facts therein contained."

Thus perfected, we still have Storms' survey with us.

Village of East Mt. Vernon

At one time it looked as if Mt. Vernon would have a strong competitor right at its door step, because the village of East Mt. Vernon was organized.

Now the temperance organizations were off to an early start in Mt. Vernon, as they should have been; and the first of such movements was organized in March, 1832, and was known as "The Mt. Vernon Temperance Society." Various other organizations existed throughout the early history of the community and exercised a great influence on the development of Mt. Vernon.

The village of East Mt. Vernon grew out of the temperance fight. In 1859 Dr. Green sold five acres off the east side of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 29 to John Yearwood. John started a grocery store on the purchase and sold lots to others. John then sold the grocery store and started a gunshop, and thus a community was born.

The inhabitants of this new community developed a great thirst and became tired of an existence without the means of satisfying it. It occurred to some genius of the time that if they had a village organization that they might have a saloon there, even though Mt. Vernon was dry and saloons had been voted out. Of course, the advantages of a village organization were all that were considered.

So in 1877 a petition was filed in the county court in due form for the organization of a village, which was to be eighty rods

wide east and west and one mile in length north and south. An election was ordered for June 12, 1877, and W. H. Newcum, Robert A. Yearwood and William Hall were appointed Judges and G. B. Leonard and Thomas H. Goodwin were to be Clerks. The result of the vote was twenty-six for village organization and one against -- somewhat of a landslide. It appears that the judges who actually held the election were James Webber, George Beagle and John Yearwood. It also seems that the clerks who served were not those appointed by Judge Foster.

The village was organized. Trustees convened. Thirty-three ordinances were adopted, and all went well for a while. The best element was in control. Walks were built and civic improvements flourished.

History tells us that the saloons on the north side of the main street of East Mt. Vernon were run in a proper manner. But those on the south side fell into ill repute and went from bad to worse, till in 1880 a Mr. Thomas Caborn concluded that he would endure them no longer. So a court action was brought at the May term of the circuit court.

Attorneys Keller and Carpenter commenced the suit, "People ex rel vs. Satterfield, County Clerk, and the Village of East Mt. Vernon." The action was certioriari. This suit was dismissed but was revived as an action quo warranto, a change of venue asked and granted. At the December term a trial was had and judgment of ouster obtained. An appeal was granted. In the Appellate Court the appeal was dismissed. The circuit court had found that the trustees had acted as trustees without legal authorization. The grounds for the ouster were that the village never had three hundred inhabitants, that some of the petitioners were non residents; that one was woman, that the first election was illegal and that the record showed no canvass of the vote.

It might be appropriate to add that after the fall of the village of East Mt. Vernon the whiskey forces carried their ticket in Mt. Vernon, and thus the primary purpose in forming the village prevailed even though the original method had failed. It is to be assumed that the thirst of the citizens was quenched.

WOLF PRAIRIE CEMETERY

This is the story of how Wolf Prairie Cemetery, located in McClellan Township, got started and also how it got its name. The story was related by the older people which included my father, W. P. Wells, who was born in 1860, and his brother and sisters; the oldest sister, Dicy E., was born in 1845.

The earliest of the Wells family in Jefferson County was named William Wells, and he handed down the story through the generations I think he came here about 1839, but have found nothing to prove or disprove this. Here is the story:

A convoy of covered wagons was on its way to a place to settle in Elk Prairie Township, Jefferson County, Illinois. While enroute to their new home, night caught them where Wolf Prairie Cemetery now is located; it was woods then. While they were camped here, a sick child became worse and died. The problem for them was what were they going to do with this chold's body? They had to move on, and they couldn't take it with them. While they were still pondering the issue, two of the women who were sitting on the ground talking about it noticed a small bird acting very queer. It would flutter close to them, then it would flutter away, then back again. It kept repeating these strange actions until the women decided to follow and see if it were trying to show them something. They started after the little bird, and it led them down "what looked like a dim path" a short distance; and there they found two little graves with crosses on them. If anybody ever found out who were buried in these little graves, I haven't heard of it. They buried this child by these little graves, and that is how Wolf Prairie Cemetery got started.

I have heard my father, W. P. Wells, and my aunt, Dicy E., "Aunt Sis" Wells Pasley, tell this story many times. It is my understanding that this happened about 120 years ago, though I have found nothing recorded as to the date.

Some years later people began to settle the country around the cemetery.

Now, some of the surrounding country was treeless, or prairie land. Late one evening a man was attacked by a gang of wolves, of which there were many at the time; and the only way he could get away

from them was to find and climb a tree, which he did after considerable running. He stayed up the tree all night, and the wolves stayed there gnawing at the trunk of the tree; by morning they had the tree almost gnawed down. However, before they got the job done, a passerby scared the wolves away, letting the man come down. From that time to the present, that part of the country has been called Wolf Prairie, and Wolf Prairie took its name from the name of the prairie.

By Paul H. Wells

WHITE SWAN BAPTIST CHURCH

The White Swan Baptist Church was organized under the name of the Union Free Will Baptist Church on October 13, 1891, and held its meetings in the White Swan School House that stood then on the Benjamin land, now owned by Louis Sproul of Richview. It is in Jefferson County just about a mile from the Jefferson-Washington County line.

The school stood just across the road from where the church now stands. Back in those days the community wasn't built as the people wanted it, and their chief concern first was a church where all could come together and worship.

On March 31, 1892, a building committee was elected. Members were D. A. Foster, William Gray, G. C. Benjamin, Bro. McKinzie, and A. J. Downes. The first treasurer was G. C. Benjamin. The land was given by Amos Downes.

The eight charter mengers of this church were: William Gray, Mrs. Rebecka Gray, Amos Downes, Mrs. Sarah Downes, J. I. Gray, Mrs. Sarah C. Gray, Mrs. Susan Henderson, and J. L. Gray. The Rev. J. F. Kirk and Mattie Deets were instrumental in the work of the church and the organization of it. The first deacons were Amos Downes and J. I. Gray, the first pastor was Rev. Riley Fox, and the church clerk was Amos Downes.

About this time there was another church organized to the south and given the name of the Union Christian Church; so in 1894 there began to be thoughts of changing the name, as the Baptist church was always referred to as the "church by the White Swan School." On September 8, 1894, the name was changed from the Union Free Will

Baptist to the White Swan Free Will Baptist Church, and it still retains that name. Late in 1894 the building was completed, painted and ready for service. On October 13, 1895, it was dedicated by the Rev. J. F. Kirk, assisted by Brothers Skaer and Morgan.

Amos Downes, the donor of the land where the church stands, lived most of his life in this community. His home place is where Mr. and Mrs. Baily Breeze live now. There were twelve children born to this home, of whom only Enoch Downes remains. Two died in infancy and the rest lived among us here for many years. They were Mrs. Martha Dennis, Mrs. Ella Jones; Enoch, John, Rufus, Gus and Charles Downes; Mrs. Molly Lawson, Mrs. Agnes Roper and Mrs. Susan Taylor. There are several children and grandchildren of Amos Downes still living in Jefferson County.

There are many names that bring back memories of those early days in the community: Breeze, Benjamin, Gray, Hazlip, Downes, Pitchford, Foster, Hails, Evans and Whitsell. Mrs. Lila Buell lives on the home place of J. C. Benjamin at the present (she is a daughter.) The Benjamins were active all their lives in this church. Mrs. Baily Breeze is another daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Benjamin and was church clerk for many years. The Benjamins raised nine children in this community. Mrs. Martha Dennis, who has since passed on, told us many times that she could remember when Kirby Smith of Mt. Vernon surveyed the roads through the White Swan area. Our roads have been improved greatly since then, from narrow dirt roads that used to get so muddy and bad that it was almost impossible to travel in the winter and spring to the graded, oiled and graveled roads that we have now.

Just south of the church is the oil field that has been developed in the last fifteen or twenty years. Also, the White Swan School has been moved twice; it now stands south of the church, but no school is held there as the consolidation act took possession a few years ago. The building still stands, and Mrs. Mary Hartman, its last teacher, still lives in the community.

The church heating system is another improvement from the days of fireplaces, then wood burning stoves, to the oil heaters that we now have. In 1931 the church was remodeled. The two narrow doors were made into one large door, the outside was covered with white

shingles, and other repairs were made. The church still has the original maple pews which have been revarnished to match the hardwood flooring in the church. Instead of the old foot pedaled organ of years ago there is a nice piano, and new carpets are on the rostrum and down the aisles. New chairs and communion set finish up the change in the pioneer church of 1891.

One interesting phase of the records is the salary of its ministers. In 1892, the pastor was paid $2 a trip; in 1893, they gave him $5 a trip; in 1899, they gave the pastor $50 for thirteen months work; in 1901 the salary was $100 a year; in 1902 they raised it to $360 a year. It has continued to raise each year until it is now a decent salary for one who gives his work to the Lord and this community.

Pastors who have been active in the White Swan Baptist Church and its work were: Riley and Matt Fox, Fenton, Evans, McMillan, and Morris. One pastor, Rev. James Blythe, served for over twenty years. He lived at Tamaroa. Rev. Robert Smith and Rev. Elijah Stockton have died recently, as has Rev. Buntin. Rev. Kenneth Price of Benton still survives as one of our pastors. Rev. Carl Hill, now of Murphysboro, has been our pastor for the last seven years.

White Swan is still doing the work that its founders and organizers hoped it would do for the community, as the little white church by the side of the road and at the four corners of this part of the community.

By Mrs. Amby Draege,
Richview, Illinois.

JUDGE ALBERT WATSON

Albert Watson I was born in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, on April 15, 1857, the third son of Joel Franklin Watson I and Sarah Marena Taylor Watson. His grandparents were John Wright Watson, M. D., Frances Pace Watson, The Rev. William Hobart Taylor, Elizabeth Spohnhinmore Taylor.

Albert Watson was both a graduate and a trustee of McKendree College, receiving the B.S. degree in 1876 and the LL.D. in 1927. He enjoyed teaching a country school in the two years following graduation from college. Then he studied law under tutelage of Charles H. Patton,

was admitted to the bar in 1880 and was partner of Mr. Patton during the next four years. In the subsequent practice of his profession, he served the public in several positions, both elective and appointive (as well as in private practice). These included: Master in Chancery; City Attorney of Mt. Vernon; State's Attorney of Jefferson County; Attorney for King City Federal Savings and Loan Association; Attorney for L. & N. Railroad, Southern Railroad, and the C. & E. I. Railroad; President of the Jefferson County Bar Association; President of the Bar Association of the First Supreme Judicial District; Senior Counselor of the Illinois State Bar Association; President, Illinois State Board of Law Examiners; Judge, Supreme Court of Illinois; Chairman of the Local Draft Board in 1917-18 and of the District Draft Board in 1918; President of the Ham National Bank, Mt. Vernon, the First National Bank of Waltonville, the Bank of Bonnie, the First State Bank of Dix, and the Ewing State Bank. He also dealt in real estate to some extent.

Judge Watson was active in religious and fraternal life, being a devoted member and trustee and Men's Bible Class teacher in the First Methodist Church and was leader of the lay delegates of the Southern Illinois Conference to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1928 at Kansas City. He served the Knights of Pythias lodge as Grand Chancellor in 1909-10, and was in charge of the completion and dedication of its Orphans' Home at Decatur.

Sarah Marena Taylor Watson died when her son, Albert, was not yet two years old; and his father, Joel Franklin Watson I, was permanently and severely crippled from an attack of poliomyelitis suffered at the age of nine years. Albert was always grateful to the stepmother, Sarah Elizabeth Murphy (Pace) Watson, for her devotion in helping Joel I rear the three Watson boys together with her own children, Eldoras and Mabel Pace, whose father was Thomas Pace of Salem, Illinois. Joel F. Watson I was the son oe a Pace mother, and his second wife was the widow of a Pace cousin.

Judge Albert became almost totally blind in his declining years, then was dramatically rejuvenated by removal of cataracts. Thereafter he rejoiced in resuming all his activities and was regularly in his office until two weeks before his death, which resulted from an accidental injury at the age of eighty-seven.

He was characteristically methodical in his habits, moderate in eating, abstemious towards alcohol, tobacco, and all drugs; vigorous in exercise, industrious and careful in work, quick to perceive and enjoy humourous aspects, both just and generous in disposition, had a strong sense of kinship and an early and abiding respect for scholarship, was genuinely interested in individual persons and their problems, was enthusiastic about baseball; and delighted in the best of literature, art and music, especially poetry, drama and opera. His mind was richly furnished, and he was often called upon as a public speaker. He was one who loved life and lived it wholeheartedly.

He had no sister. His brother, Walter Watson, M. D., who married Nettie Margaret Johnson, had one child, Margaret, who married Thomas Perry of Westerly, Rhode Island. The second brother, Howard, who married Frances Hinckley (Fisk), also had but one child, Martha. She married Nelson Cunliff of St. Louis, Missouri.

Albert Watson I married Mary Eunice Jay, a teacher in the public elementary schools, on August 12, 1880 in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, where they made their home until her death on November 30, 1942 and his on November 25, 1944. Their five children were: Marina II, who married Alvin Hobbs Frazier and had no children; Colonel Joel Franklin II, who married Louise Malloy and had one son, General Albert II, and one daughter, Mary Louise; Alice Erwin, Ph.D., who never married; Isabel, who died in infancy; and Allen Stanley, who married Julia Mary Tuohy and had one son, Daniel Stanley, and one daughter, Marina III.

All of Albert Watson's children now (August, 1962) are deceased except Alice, who is retired from teaching and resident in the family homestead. Albert II is Major General and U. S. Commander in Berlin. He is married to Anne Bucher, and their sons are Albert III and John Bucher. Mary Louise is married to Lieut. General Gordon B. Rogers; they have one son, Capt. Gordon B. Rogers, Jr. (now commanding Company E Fifth Cavalry, in South Korea) and two daughters, Susan Rogers Tate (wife of Donald Lamont Tate and mother of Dorian, in Annapolis) and Mary Alice Rogers. Daniel Stanley married (first) Lois Durheim and (second) Grace Sasada and has three sons, David Stanley, Stephen William, and Nicholas, and lives in Pakistan. Marina III is

married to John Patrick Gately, Jr., has three living sons, Brian, Michael and Daniel, and one daughter, Marina IV, residing in San Antonio, Texas.

Albert Watson I and his family are among the many descendants of Richard and Isabella Pace, who came to Jamestown, Virginia, from England about 1616. Among the descendants of Richard and Isabella Pace was Joel Pace II, the Revolutionary War soldier for whom the Joel Pace Chapter of D. A. R. in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, is named. John Wright Watson, grandfather of Albert Watson I, came to Mt. Vernon, Illinois, about the year 1822, approximately four years after Illinois was admitted as a state.

WINFIELD, ILLINOIS

On May 7, 1842, the Union Baptist Church was started. The church, known as the Primitive Baptist to many because of its religion, still stands about one mile north of the Franklin County line on a road that is an all-weather road and about one mile east of State Route 148.

An early pioneer of this county, the late Joseph Hartley, was the first moderator of the church. He, along with his wife, Mary Hartley, Mrs. Sarah Hillman, John Fleener, Sarah Fleener, Fanny Clampet, William Mifflin and Ann Mifflin, comprised the first congregation.

The church, cemetery and its grounds are well kept by the use of funds derived from the holding annually of a church supper and social on the present grounds. The affair is well attended by persons from near and far.

About a half-mile east of the old church was once the lively little town of Winfield. About the year 1849, a man by the name of J. J. Fitzgerrell and his wife came on horseback from Posey County, Indiana and settled in Elk Prairie Township and homesteaded several acres of land. A few years later the village of Fitzgerrell was started. The town was four blocks square. The post office went by the name of Fitzgerrell, but the little town took the name of Winfield.

At one time the town boasted of a flour mill operated by William L. Morris; there were three stores, one of them operated by

Matthew Dunn, who also had the post office. There were two blacksmith shops, one of them owned and operated by John L. Nicks. There were two doctors: Dr. E. E. Yard, who lived at Ninfield and had both his home and office in the town, and Dr. I. G. Gee, who lived at his farm home about one-eighth mile southwest of town. Both were well known as they travelled many miles many times on horseback to tend the sick.

All that is left of this once lively little town is a small house that once belonged to the blacksmith, John L. Nicks, and the school house, no longer used; and of course the old church that welcomes one and all. This was at one time and another a place of worship for some dear old acquaintances, many of whom along with other dear ones are now lying at rest in the nearby cemetery.

--By Mrs. Kirby Rogers,
Waltonville, Illinois

WALTONVILLE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

One Sunday afternoon in August, 1943, at a baptising in the Big Muddy River on Highway 148 just east of Waltonville, four people (Hollie Dees and his wife Eudene and Ila Lance and his wife Mary) who attended this baptismal service spoke to the minister, Delbert Hall, who had conducted the services, about holding a revival in Waltonville. He consented to hold the services as soon as a place for them could be secured. An old store building on Main Street of Waltonville was selected, and the owner of the building gave the group several months rent free for the cleaning up of the outside and inside. The seats and piano were borrowed from a little church in Scheller whose doors had already been closed. The pulpit was made of railroad ties with boards nailed across them and covered with a rug.

After having a three weeks' revival, on November 10, 1944, the group organized the Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church. Bro. Guy Sulcer led in prayer and the organization proceeded. The council consisted of Rev. Riley Burton of Whittington, Rev. Charles Porter of Sesser, and Rev. Charles Osborne of Des Planes, Illinois.

Charter members were: Delbert Hall and wife, Lucille; Tracey Dees and wife, Suda; Ila Lance and wife, Mary; Hollie Dees and wife, Eudene; Ray Hall and wife, Marie; Donald Hamlin and wife, Lois; John

Hall, Sadie Hicks. Officers elected were: Lois Hamlin, clerk; Ray Hall, Treasurer; Delbert Hall, pastor; deacons: Ila Lance, Ray Hall and John Hall. The first dollar donated was by Bearon Dees. Trustees were: Floyd Hartley, Hollie Dees and Donald Hamlin.

Soon a lot was purchased and the clearing off of the ground started. Some of the women helped by cutting sprouts with the ax. The seats and piano that had been borrowed were returned, and the church bought its own piano and lumber to make seats. This was during World War Two when building materials were hard to find. Members drove many miles to find the lumber; but the beautiful little church was completed in a short time, with each member doing his part and helping to carry the responsibility.

The church's first homecoming after the completion of the building was the last Sunday in September, 1946, and homecoming is still held the last Sunday in September each year.

There are at present about 72 active members of this church, with a total membership of about 136.

--Mary Lance, Church Clerk

WOOD FAMILY AND WOODLAWN

William Wood, originally from Georgia, moved north and settled on the Ohio River, near Elizabethtown, Illinois, then came to this part of the country in 1819, when he settled near Mt. Vernon. He died in 1825 and was buried at Old Union Cemetery. Mr. Wood left four children: Hal and Judy, who settled near the Ohio, and Alfred and Anseron, who came here with him. He was a man of great natural dignity and integrity.

Alfred Wood decided to remain in this country, as his father had, and lived an honorable life. He reared a family of four sons and three daughters, namely: William, Jr., James, Leonard, George, Marion (Lick), Nancy, Elizabeth and Jane.

Alfred Wood met a melancholy fate. He and Uncle Lewis Johnson were out in the woods making sugar. Not far from the sugar camp they found a bee tree and on felling the tree a limb struck Alfred, killing him instantly. This was in the year of 1828. He was brought

to Old Union for burial. The creek they had to cross was at flood stage. There being no bridge, some stout youths constructed a raft, and so the procession crossed on it, and Alfred was laid to rest.

William, Jr., and James Wood each married, lived and died near Woodlawn. Leonard married and went to Henderson County, Texas, Dick migrating to the region of Sandoval.

William Wood acquired the following land from the United States, dated February 1, 1850: the northwest half of the northwest half of Section 30, Township Two South, Range Two East in the District of Lands subject to sale at Shawneetown, Illinois, containing 41 and 81/100ths of acres. The title was signed by Zachary Taylor, President of the United States, and was also signed by Thomas Ewing, Jr., Secretary, Recorder of the General Land Office.

William then deeded the land to the village and it was named Wood Lawn. On December 8, 1870, the post office was established with Paul Masters as postmaster. On June 20, 1892, the name was changed to Woodlawn. William Wood also deeded the land for the building of the Methodist Church in Woodlawn.

-- By Mary Jaco

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, WOODLAWN, ILLINOIS

On November 5, 1906, banking was instituted in Woodlawn, Illinois, under the title of The Woodlawn Bank, Troutt, Watkins & Company. Officers were: George B. Welborn, President; S. H. Watkins, Vice-President; John W. Watkins, Cashier; Board of Directors were John R. Allen, L. L. Emmerson and W. C. Troutt. The bank opened with a capital of $10,000 plus a personal responsibility of $500,000.

In 1920 a charter was issued for a National Bank, and since that time the institution has been known as The First National Bank of Woodlawn.

This institution has served the community for 56 years, and thereby it is second only to the Ina State Bank in point of service for banks in Jefferson County. At present its officers are: Morton Wood, President; Earl A. Hill, Vice-President; E. A. Driggers, Cashier.

--By E. A. Driggers

BONNIE CAMP MEETING

The Bonnie Holiness Association was organized a few years prior to the turn of the century. The original purpose was to hold an annual religious meeting for a ten-day period in some Southern Illinois location in order that people from all parts of "Little Egypt" as well as other areas could participate in a camp meeting of an interdenominational nature.

This annual event had its beginning at Spring Garden, Illinois, in 1891. The first evangelists were A. A. Niles and J. J. Smith. Legend has it that Niles and Smith had conducted a revival at Spring Garden in 1890 and were very popular with those who sponsored the event. On February 12, 1891 (Lincoln's birthday), William H. Thurmond, Rev. Wm. Moore, Samuel A. Davis, C. A. McCulough, Thomas R. Drennan, Marshall D. Fisher, Edward Odle, Thedore Cates, J. M. McKinney, Mathias McPherson, Wm. Barbee, John Spencer, Davis Clinton and Frank Kirk met at Spring Garden and took the initial action of this new organization. Thurmond was elected president, Rev. Moore vice president, Davis secretary, and McCulough treasurer. The remainder of the group were named to the executive committee. They were to serve in their respective offices until the next committee meeting.

This group was first in favor of calling the organization the Union Holiness Association. Their next committee meeting was held on May 23, 1891, at the Union M. E. Church (now abandoned) which was located a few miles northeast of Ewing, Illinois, and it was at this meeting that the final action was taken to organize the association for the purpose of holding annual camp meetings. These annual events were to be held in August and were first called conventions.

The founders of "Bonnie Camp" arranged while in session at their second business meeting to hold their first convention at Spring Garden beginning Thursday, July 30, 1891. It is assumed that this meeting was for ten days, but it is not shown in the record. Oral reports state that this ten-day meeting was held in a brush arbor. It is reported that the meeting was held in a tent the following year. The officers who had been elected to serve temporarily were elected at the Spring Garden meeting for a full year. Rev. Niles and Rev. Smith were employed as evangelists for the first annual convention.

The next ten-day event was held in Mt. Vernon in 1892, and the following year their meeting was held at Eldorado. The founders had been looking for a permanent place to hold their annual services and were very well satisfied when Rev. R. E. Hoskinson, a member of the official board, donated the association twenty acres located a half-mile west of Bonnie, Illinois. Reports say that the first camp meeting held on the present grounds was in a tent until the erection of the present open-air tabernacle was completed.

This organization has held its camp meeting every year since 1891. It is the only annual camp meeting in Jefferson County and is one of the few in Southern Illinois that sponsors an event of this kind. The association has had steady growth since it was founded and has done much in sustaining religious activity in this area.

The names of all presidents of this organization are not available, but Gerald Gulley is serving in that office at the present time. Hubert Leonard served the longest period as president, having served sixteen years consecutively.

Much could and perhaps should be written concerning the activities of this widely known organization during the seventy-one years of its existence, but space does not permit it to be done in this particular volume.

— Carl S. Drennan

ALPHABETICAL INDEX

PLEASE NOTE: When we could not be sure of names or initials, we took them as contributed. We cannot be held responsible for incorrect spellings. However, this volume has been very carefully proofread, and we believe spellings are correct as they were given to us. It is also possible that different people who had the same name were erroneously understood to be the same person.

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